

# MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER



## The journal of the Maltese Diaspora



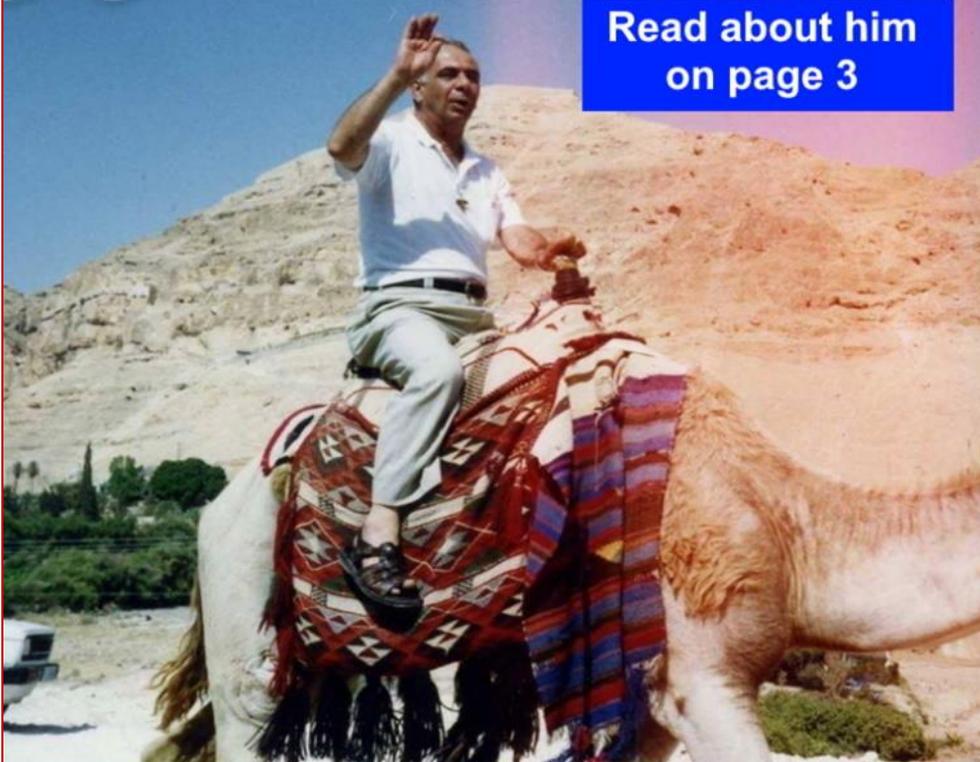
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No..... he is not  
Lawrence of Arabia

Read about him  
on page 3



The President of the  
Maltese Community Council NSW  
Mr. Emanuel Camilleri  
AUSTRALIA DAY 2020



THE HAPPY PRESIDENT

GEORGI

The plaque above reads:  
**CHILD MIGRANTS'  
MONUMENT IN MALTA**  
inaugurated by  
the Hon. Lawrence Gonzi  
Prime Minister  
2 March 2008

'We have again shown what big hearts the Maltese people have'  
President George Vella - FUN RUN - VALLETTA 2020



# Connecting Maltese Living Abroad

## 'We have again shown what big hearts the Maltese people have'

President George Vella

### ANNUAL FUN RUN 2020

President George Vella told a crowd in St George's Square in Valletta that the Maltese people have once again shown the world what big hearts they have.

President Vella was addressing a crowd just after the 11th edition of the annual Fun Run organised by the Office of the President in aid of the Malta Community Chest Fund, concluded.

Hundreds cheered, danced and celebrated at the finish line. On what turned out to be a day of sunshine and clear weather, President George Vella thanked the crowds for their participation and generosity.

"I wish to thank all of you, for choosing me as your president; whilst the role has its difficulties it is moments like this, and I-Istrina where we prove to the world what big hearts the Maltese people have," said Vella during his first Fun Run as President.

He said that during his first speech as president back in April 2019, he wanted to work on bringing the Maltese people together and put aside their differences. "I will continue doing so until my last day as president. I am sure we have our differences, as we should, but we must continue respecting and showing love to one another as a society."

He said that as a society we must continue showing solidarity between one another, but also to those who are in need. He said that the Malta Community Chest Fund will always be there for them.

Alongside President Vella stood Prime Minister Robert Abela and his family, who also participated in the fun run. Abela thanked all the



participants who came to celebrate as a community and a nation.

"We have come together to celebrate this beautiful day and to continue helping those who are going through a hard time." He said that aside from continuing to promote solidarity, the fun run also highlights the importance of physical health. "let us continue celebrating as a nation and not allow politics to divide us," said Abela, "we are stronger together."

PN Deputy Leader David Agius thanked all the work President George Vella has done and recalled when he was participating the fun run with President Emeritus George Abela, father of the Prime Minister. "I have participated in every single fun run and I will continue to do so," expressed Agius. He said that he hopes to see the Maltese people continue spreading their generosity.

The Mayor of Valletta, Alfred Zammit quoted the popular quote that "charity begins at home."

"We are all here together for charity and we are always ready to provide. There is no labour or nationalists when it comes to illness, we are one country."

Enemed Representative Kevin Chricop said that he was extremely grateful that Enemed was able to contribute to something so big and important. "Our country has no divisions, no colours, we are one."

**THE MALTESE JOURNAL - Since the demise of The Maltese Herald, the Maltese Journal has become one of the only concrete press contacts with Malta. Frank Scicluna has, single-handedly, assiduously produced this masterpiece and distributed it free of charge to all desirous of 'keeping in touch' with their homeland. The e-newsletter is now in its 300th edition and about 24 pages per edition long and it enjoys a prodigious distribution. Maltese-Australians everywhere will be forever indebted to Frank for the insightful, and high quality content of the Journal. TVGatt**

Maltese Living Abroad – Interested of what's going on in Malta through the social media

## THE MEMBERS OF THE MALTESE COMMUNITY OF ADELAIDE ARE STILL WITHOUT A CHAPLAIN

Father Gabriel Stephen Micallef OFM arrived in Adelaide from Malta in 1996. He was sent to South Australia for three months to assist with the closure of the Maltese Franciscan mission.

According to God's plan Fr. Micallef spent twenty three-years serving as chaplain to the ageing Maltese community when he decided to return to Gozo-Malta to retire mainly because of ill health after celebrating his 75th birthday and 50th anniversary as a priest in March 2019.

Based at the parish of Lockleys, the Maltese community chaplaincy has its origins in the years immediately after World War II (1949) when the Maltese began emigrating to several countries mainly Australia, in search of a more secure future. But for Fr Gabriel, the reason for his journey to South Australia goes back to World War I when his father and a group of young men from Gozo were based in Thessaloniki in Greece and served alongside Australian soldiers. "I am here because of my father," Fr Gabriel said. With 11 other young Maltese men from the island of Gozo, Fr Gabriel's father, Joseph, came to South Australia in 1922 and worked on the bridge at Murray Bridge.

"It was a very cold winter and so they decided to leave and go to Port Lincoln to work in the tuna industry but the industry closed down because of the Great Depression and they started walking eastwards from farm to farm as helping hands," he said.

"They (the farmers) would give them something to eat and then they would go to another farm. They walked all the way to Sydney." Some of the group married and stayed but his father returned to the family farm in Gozo. "When we were growing up he always told us how beautiful Adelaide is."

Named Stephen at birth, Fr Gabriel came from a large family – he was the 17th of 18 children. Several of his siblings died at a young age and he now has only one brother living in Gozo and a sister in Queensland. "We were poor but happy," he said of his childhood in the picturesque fishing village of St Lawrence, Gozo.



The late Fr. Giles Ferriggi and Fr. Gabirel Micallef the first and the last Maltese Franciscan Chaplains in the Archdiocese of Adelaide

After attending primary and secondary school on the island, Stephen joined the Franciscan Order and was given the religious name of Gabriel.

He was ordained priest on March 22, 1969 and after a year of further study he started teaching at secondary schools. In the 70s he volunteered as a missionary priest in Tripoli, Libya, where he catered for the members of Maltese and English-speaking Catholic communities, many of whom worked in the oil industry. He met the controversial President Colonel Gaddafi several times.

"With every Province chapter they wanted me to go back but we would get signatures and they let me stay." Having reached retirement age Fr Gabriel is now in Gozo with his brother and many nieces and nephews. "When we all get together there is always over 100 of us," he said. "Malta is my home."

For over 23 years, Stephen was in great demand: "Our people still love the priest and the Church, and they are very strong in their faith so I find myself being used a lot." He baptised our children, celebrated our marriages, visited and anointed our sick in hospitals, blessed our houses, said Masses in Maltese regularly and conducted numerous funerals and participated in community events and functions. Now our community is like a herd of sheep without a shepherd.

**We begged the authorities to send another priest or two to continue the sterling work the Franciscans managed to do for so many years. So far we have been unsuccessful. We, the readers of the Maltese Journal in Adelaide, would like to send another message to the leaders of the church in Malta – Please, send us at least one priest even for 12 months. Do not desert us. Hopefully our message will not fall into deaf ears.**

**JVM**

## 5th Convention for Maltese Living Abroad 'Keeping Connected' 6-7th October 2020



The Ministry for Foreign Affairs and European Affairs would like to inform the Maltese diaspora and the general public that the next convention for Maltese Living Abroad will take place on 6-7th October 2020. Preparations are currently underway, and the Ministry would like to hear from those who are interested in participation at the fifth Convention.

The Convention will consist of plenary sessions together with a number of workshops. Other activities will also be organized at the margins of the Convention. These include an art exhibition, literary symposium. The cultural events will take place on 8th October while on 10th October the Convention will end with a social event. [foreignaffairs.gov.mt/](http://foreignaffairs.gov.mt/) The working languages of the Convention will be Maltese and English.

Those interested in attending the Convention are invited to express their intent of participation by filling in the form online. This form is to be sent via email on [convention2020.mftp@gov.mt](mailto:convention2020.mftp@gov.mt). Alternatively, the form may be sent to the following postal address:

The Director, Directorate Consular Services and Maltese Living Abroad Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion Palazzo Parisio, Merchant's Street Valletta – VLT 1171 Malta

### MALTA AS WE KNOW IT

Those of us around the globe (who still keep up with the pulse of our old country) are aware and ache at what we read and hear about Malta through the social media nowadays. Malta is not the same as it was when we left it 50-60-70 years ago. Families in Malta are smaller (my mother had 13 babies). We were poorer but happier. Life was so simpler, streets were safer and our narrow roads were our playing

grounds (now they are parking areas). Families, in summer, used to spend the evening sitting in front of their house chatting and saying the rosary. We knew everyone in our street and were friendly with our neighbours. The small grocer shops were replaced by supermarkets, our wooden toys were replaced by mobiles, ipads, laptops and smart-watches and 'made in China' plastic objects.

For us the word "gay" meant happiness. We never knew anything about illicit drugs addiction and overdose.

Malta is our birth country and for many of us, paid for our education - only to have us depart for greener pastures. So yes, we never relinquish our love and fond memories of the island, while we respect, contribute and, indeed, fight (if need be) for our new home countries which enabled us to build our new families and our future.



### HISTORY OF MALTESE EMIGRATION LAST MILLENNIUM

In a small country with limited resources, the threat of overpopulation is normally always present. For centuries the Maltese Islands have felt the need to resort to the safety valve of emigration in order to check the size of the population. Emigration on a large scale has been a feature of Maltese life since the early years of the 20th century. When the mad fury of the Second World War finally abated, in the immediate post-war period, successive governments have felt the need to give official encouragement to a comparatively large-scale emigration movement that reached its peak in 1954 and continued on during the 50's and 60's. Organised and subsidised emigration became a basic policy that ruled the Maltese from 1945 to the

years of the 1970's. The people of Malta were told that emigration was the only solution to the problem of overpopulation and unemployment. The choice of the Maltese after the WW2 was not very different from that which faced them in 1918. They had either to emigrate or else face stark economic hardship. In the words of those who held power in their hands emigration was hailed as the *'Safety Valve'* of the nation. Intensive propaganda was carried out in the squares of every town and village so much so that many had the impression that to solve their problems all they had to do was to pack their belongings and leave.



**Maltese migrants arriving  
in Australia - 1949**



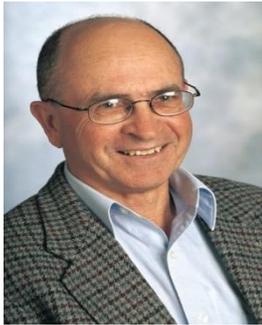
The effort to convince those who were either unemployed or else had poorly paid jobs soon produced its desired effects. From 1945 to 1979 almost 140,000 (the bulk of which emigrated in the 50's and 60's), men, women and children left the land of their birth with a population that averaged about 300,000.

While Colonial and Maltese administrations did all they could to relieve Malta of some of its best inhabitants, they did not seriously consider the long term effects that such a haemorrhage (bleeding) would have on the future development of Maltese society. The Safety Valve certainly worked for a number of years, but the human suffering brought about by a policy of sustained emigration never features in the statistics published by the Department of Emigration.

The main receiving countries in the 50's and 60's were Australia, Great Britain, Canada and the USA. Migrants to Australia by far surpassed those who chose to emigrate to other countries. They also tended to settle permanently and the rate of returnees was relatively low. On the other hand migrants to Canada and particularly those who went to the United Kingdom, tended to go back home in considerable numbers. The restrictive policy of the US Government hindered the development of the Maltese emigratory movement on any appreciable scale. However it must be stated that Maltese settlements in the English-speaking countries were largely characterised by their permanency. The process of uprooting oneself in order to start life again in an alien environment was distinctively painful and difficult, but for the majority of Maltese migrants it was also a successful one.

The decline of emigration came about with the emergence of modern Malta as an independent, small and dynamic nation determined to look after its own people rather than preferring to see them go

**HISTORY OF MALTESE EMIGRATION  
SHOULD BE PLACED IN THE SCHOOL  
CURRICULUM  
FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS**



## PROFS. DAVID PLOWMAN, 1942-2013

**Champion of Maltese**

**Child Migrants.**

David Plowman made important contributions to industrial relations scholarship, management education and the cause of

Maltese child migrants in Australia.

From 2002, through to its disbanding in 2009, he was chairman of the Child Migrants of Malta organisation, raising awareness of Maltese child migrants and lobbying on their behalf concerning their past treatment. In 2012, he was made a Member of the Order of Australia for this work.

David Henry Plowman was born on April 9, 1942 at the Intafa Military Hospital in Malta, the second of three sons to Harold Plowman, an English soldier who had married a Maltese woman, Josephine Cassar. After the war the family moved to England, but because David and his brother Jim had respiratory problems it was decided that Josephine and the boys would return to Malta. Although Harold was supposed to join the family, he never appeared.

Jim concluded that there was no future for them in Malta and persuaded David that they should move to Australia as child migrants. They did not travel together as David suffered an injury and needed to recover before he could travel, so Jim arrived in Fremantle in 1953 and David joined him three months later. They were two of 310 Maltese child migrants who found their way to Australia between 1950 and 1965. Eight years later, David and Jim sponsored Josephine and younger brother Richard to join them.

After David arrived in Australia he was moved to Tardun, 480 kilometres north of Perth, and attended St Mary's Agricultural College. He maintained contact with the school all his life and in 2003 published a history of the school, *Enduring Struggle: St Mary's Tardun Farm School*, celebrating its 75th anniversary.

After St Mary's, Plowman went to teachers' college and won a scholarship for a Master of Arts in Industrial Relations at the University of Melbourne. In 1973, he married Catherine Burke after meeting her at a church social club.

At the end of the 1970s, Plowman was employed in the Department of Industrial Relations at the University of NSW. In time, he became a professor of industrial relations and was appointed head of the School of Industrial Relations and Organisational Behaviour. In 1993, he went back to Western Australia as the director of the Graduate School of Management (now called the Business School) at the University of WA.

He had a broad, generalist approach to industrial relations research. He published several books and many articles that examined both historical and contemporary issues. The breadth of his research is indicated by the titles of his books: *Australian Industrial Relations* (1980) (the first textbook in the area, co-authored with a variety of other scholars over many editions), *Australian Trade Union Statistics* (1981), *Wage Indexation: A Study of Australian Wage Issues* (1981), *Australian Unions: An Industrial Relations Perspective* (1983) (a co-edited book of readings), *Holding The Line: Compulsory Arbitration and National Employer Co-ordination in Australia* (1989) (based on his PhD thesis), *Australian Industrial Relations: An Introduction* (1992) and *Australian Wage Determination: Select Documents* (1992). In 1994, Plowman was elected a fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia.

In late 2013, Plowman received the University of WA Chancellor's Medal and the Dean's Award from the Business School of the University of WA. He was also the founding editor of *The Economic and Labour Relations Review*, which has now run for 25 years.

Plowman approached life with enthusiasm and energy. He was an energetic and hard-working scholar, and an able and forthright administrator. His approach to everyone was simple, genuine and courteous. He liked helping others and was never happier than when one of his students reported back to him about their progress. Even as he approached death, all he wanted to do was to hear news, talk and laugh about old times from visitors, saying nothing about himself. He was one of life's gentlemen.

**Braham Dabscheck**

# The Forgotten Children of Malta

by [lewisblayse](#)

*Images: Malta's Child Migrant Memorial (Source: Times of Malta)*

Malta was a source of “child migrants” to Australia. Most attention has been placed on the child migrants from the U.K., largely because there were 7,000 from the U.K. and about 300 from Malta.

In both cases, children were promised a good life in Catholic Church Children’s Homes in Australia. The reality, of course, was very different, with many suffering all of the known forms of abuse at the hands of their supposed “carers”.

Maltese boys were placed in Castledare Junior Orphanage, Clontarf Boys’ Town, St Joseph’s Trade and Farm School, Bindoon, and in St Mary’s Agricultural School, Tardun. Previous postings have covered some of the abuses at these Christian Brotherhood institutions.

About 50 girls were sent out to Western Australia and were placed in the St. Joseph Girls’ Orphanage, Subiaco and Nazareth House, Geraldton. Nazareth House was run by the Sisters of Nazareth who were responsible for abuses at other institutions they ran in Australia. It closed in 1977 and is now a residential aged-care facility. St. Joseph’s was founded by the Spanish Benedictine Monks and closed in 1974. It catered for girls from six to sixteen years of age.

While significant information exists about abuses suffered by the boys from Malta, not much is available concerning the girls. It is to be hoped that the Royal Commission will provide more.

The first group of 27 boys, on assisted passage, left Valetta Grand Harbour on March 26, 1950, for Freemantle in Western Australia, aboard the “Ocean Triumph”. A memorial plaque and sculpture (see photo above) have been placed on the site (activists had wanted a list of names included, but this did not happen). The plaque reads:

## **CHILDS MIGRANTS’ MEMORIAL**

**Inaugurated by**

**the Hon. Lawrence Gonzi Prime Minister**

**2 March 2008**

Monsignor Philip Calleja, who ran the Maltese Church’s Emigrants’ Commission for many years, wrote a paper about Maltese child migrants in 2008. It was read out during the unveiling of the child migrants’ monument at the Valletta Waterfront. Following on Prime Minister Gonzi’s 2008 apology,

Archbishop Paul Cremona apologized, in 2010, for the Maltese Church’s involvement in the child migration scheme. The Australian Government has also apologized.

In 2011, three former Maltese child migrants began legal action against the Christian Brotherhood for sexual and physical abuses. In Malta, the issue appears to remain contentious, particularly with regard to the role of former Emigration Minister, Dr Cachia Zammit (see Times of Malta link, below)

One former child migrant, Raphael Ellul, returned to Malta to reconnect with his past, but also to close a traumatic chapter in his life when, as a 10 year old child, he endured physical and sexual abuse at the hands of the Christian Brothers in Australia, in their Tardun and Castledare facilities (see yesterday’s posting). “Ray”, as he became known, was born in 1960 in Cospicua.



Dr Patrick Howard, who worked with stress-disordered Vietnam veterans and with children in institutions run by the Christian Brothers, states that the six years at Tardun's Agriculture Farm left Ray with "chronic depressed mood, low self esteem and a feeling of hopelessness."

In Tardun, he was forbidden to speak the Maltese language with other Maltese residents and was subjected to beatings whenever he was heard speaking it. During this period he received no specific English language instructions, which inhibited his chances to apply for non-manual jobs later on in his life. Lack of English was a further protection for the Brothers from having victims alert community members to the abuses.



A few of the Maltese child migrants fared better in their new country, particularly those who were later reunited with family who migrated to Australia as part of the large migration scheme from war-torn Europe.

One of these was Professor David Plowman who came out at the age of ten, followed three months later by a brother. Eight years after their arrival, Plowman and his brother sponsored their mother and younger brother, who joined the two brothers in Australia as normal migrants. To the Western Australian government's frustration, half of the Maltese child migrants were reunited with their families within two years, with most choosing to move interstate.

In 1993, Professor Plowman became Director of the Graduate School of Management at The University of Western Australia. "I have been lucky," he has said. "Of those who were at Tardun at my time, I'm the only one that I know of with a university education."

In the 1990s, the Maltese Professional and Business Association set up the Child Migrants of Malta organisation to help the former child migrants, with Professor Plowman as chairman. He has written an extensive account of the Malta child migrant scheme for a Maltese history journal (see reference below). For these activities he was awarded the Queen's Birthday honour of Medal of the Order of Australia. The committee of the Maltese Professional and Business

*Association of Western Australia during the unveiling of the monument to former child migrants in Fremantle. (Parts of the two plaques can be seen at the bottom of picture.) Photo courtesy of Paul Calleja.*



A monument, dedicated to child migrants, was unveiled in Fremantle by Sheila McHale, Western Australian State Minister for Community Development. The monument features two statues showing a 12-year-old-boy and a 10-year-old-girl with expressions showing "awe and wonder". It cost

\$A45,000 and the Federal and WA state governments shared the expenses.

The chairman of the Child Migrants of Malta (C-MOM), David Plowman, who had a significant input into the nature of the monument, was one of the key speakers at the opening.

*Recipients Of Order Of Australia Medal Prof. S. Gatt, S. Templeman MP. L. Vella. D. Athanasio. L. Dimech. N. Serg Borg. G. Bartalo. and C.N Mifsud.*

**MALTESE COMMUNITY  
COUNCIL OF NSW  
CELEBRATES  
AUSTRALIA DAY 2020  
by Victor Vella**



I sincerely hope you were there...and if you were not you missed out on a jolly good show. I'm talking about the celebration of Australia Day by the Maltese Community of N.S.W which sensibly enough took place before the official Australia Day. The Maltese C. Council presented a



**Mr Emanuel Camilleri  
President - MCC**

wonderful short program at the Holroyd Function Centre on Sunday 19th January. It made me realise that we have come a long way from when I wrote in the Maltese Herald about 40 years ago how we have to come out of

amateurism into the professional field especially when it comes to public presentations.

Able organised by the MCC and especially by the President Emanuel Camilleri and his secretary Miriam Farrugia, the varied program worked so smoothly when short and varied presentations followed.

The whole celebration so well presented by Antoine Mangion included the usual welcome by the President of the MCC and various musical interludes, which included a series of familiar songs by Natasha Vella who showed her

skills both vocally and playfully on the piano. The occasional participation of the Choir under the baton of Marisa Privitera added to the musical and communal part of the occasion. Fr. Tarcisio Micallef said the introductory prayers.

I have to say that the climax of the evening was the keynote address by the 18-year old Ruby Vella who as a couple secretly told me after...she brought tears to their eyes (Read Ruby's speech next page). In her address Ruby brought to life her visits to Malta by evoking rather than describing the 'old history and culture'. What with her attempt at pronouncing an old rhyme in Maltese and comparing the old with the new, Ruby stole the show.

The occasion was significant in many ways especially with the presence of a number of second and third generation Maltese on and off stage.. Having a young Maltese Australian delivering such an address which combined the two histories and cultures was significant in many ways. I should also mention that even the fore-mentioned Natasha is also the result of a mixture of cultures.

The occasion concluded with the presentation of the Australia day awards to: Mr. Lawrence Dimech, OAM. Mr. Lino Vella, AM. Mrs Nancy Serg, OAM. Mrs. Doris Athanasio OAM. Mr. George Bartolo. Mr Charles N Mifsud OAM. and Prof. Stephen Gatt OAM, Steve Christou, Mayor of the Cumberland Council. delivered the concluding remarks to be followed by the traditional communal singing of I-Innu Malta and Advance Australia Day. WELL DONE, MCC

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS AUSTRALIA  
DAY CELEBRATION Sunday, 19th  
January 2020 RUBY VELLA**

Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to express my gratitude to the Maltese community Council for inviting me to participate in today's community celebrations of Australia Day 2020. And a very good afternoon to all of you. Before I begin my speech, I would like to personally acknowledge and pay respects to the traditional owners of the land on which we gather here today, the Darug people, whose culture, customs and practice have nurtured this Land since The Dreaming. My name is Ruby Vella, I live here in Sydney and I am third generation Maltese. My parents were both born in Australia, my father Steve is second generation Maltese and my mother Amanda is Anglo-Australian. I am a proud citizen of Australia, and all the more because of its rich cultural diversity. I would like to share with you a Maltese poem that my Nanna (my grandmother) taught me when I was a child. I apologise if my pronunciation is incorrect, I am unfortunately not a Maltese speaker but I hope to be one day.

It is about a girl named Katerina who caught a King Fish.

**Katarin Gibtlek Lampuka, Katarine qabbad in-nar, Katarine Iftah it-tieqa, Halli Johrog id-duhhan.**

I chose this poem because I think that it is a relevant and meaningful short story of a girl living on the small island of Malta, as I grew up on this large island of Australia. Both these islands are home to me, one figuratively and one literally. This story from my childhood, is the bridge between my Maltese and Australian heritage. In fact, it is a metaphor for the two island homes that have shaped my identity. I feel very lucky to be of both Australian and Maltese heritage. My two ethnicities have influenced me throughout my life and have helped shape the person I am today. I call Australia my home and I have always felt a strong attachment to our exquisite beaches and precious bushland. I am lucky enough to have had an education that has given me the opportunity to experience countless camps and treks in Australia's wilderness areas. These adventures have certainly influenced me, made me more resilient as a person and given me great respect for our natural environment. Additionally, my appreciation for family time, my longing for large gatherings of people and my love for good food I

believe have come from my Maltese heritage. I share an example with you: with such a large family on both sides we celebrate Christmas in a multitude of ways, all of which make Christmas a very special

time for me. However, it is the large celebration with my Maltese family on Christmas night that really defines for me what I love about my Maltese heritage. Together with my Nanna and Nannu (grandparents), my aunties and uncles and all of my cousins the Christmas Festa is loud with so many of us around the table, joyous as we all come together from across the country, dramatic as the cousins share the Christmas story, energetic as we dance and sing to music late into the evening - it is full of laughter, warmth and humour.

When I was 11 years old I visited Malta for the first time with my family. I was struck by a familiar culture which I felt so connected to in a completely unfamiliar country. My 11 year old self was fascinated by the Maltese accent and I longed to learn the language and to be able to understand whether my cousins were really whispering about me, the 'odd Australian', in Maltese. I fell deeply in love with pastizzi. However, I must say that my 11 year old self did not warm to the idea of eating the traditional Maltese national dish of 'Stuffat tal-Fenek' which is stewed rabbit. When my Nannu secretly cooked bolognese for the family and decided not to tell me until after I had taken several hungry mouthfuls that it was in fact made with rabbit, I was not impressed! (I had rabbits as pets when I was young).

During my stay in Malta, I learnt the importance of faith to the Maltese culture and of the bravery of its people having endured centuries of invasions. I was moved by the country's experiences during the Second World War in which 14,000 bombs were dropped on the country. Malta was the most bombed place on Earth. However, the Maltese people fought on and in unity, were awarded the



**Ruby Vella**

George Cross so as to “bear witness to the heroism and devotion of its people.” This award symbolises Malta’s bravery and strength as a country and the courageous spirit that is unique to its people.

SEP

I was also struck by the beautiful blue bays and the contrasting ancient alleyways and churches that were unique to Malta. I was amazed by the pristine Mediterranean waters of the blue lagoon off the island of Comino and the beautiful historical buildings in Mdina ( known as the ‘Silent City of Malta’ ) made from limestone with exquisite door knockers that the city is famous for. Many of the door knockers are in the shape of angels, lions and fish. I

became fascinated with the practical Nature of the Maltese when I witnessed glass smiths creating the most exquisite vases. When my family and I took a trip to Gozo, an island off the mainland, we were absorbed into one of the biggest celebrations I have ever experienced; the ... Festa of St. Joseph, at Qala where people threw confetti down from overhanging balconies and the parish priest stopped to share a beer with the community amidst the celebrating crowd down below.

Through my experience in Malta, I learnt that the most important feature of Maltese culture is the love and gathering of family, where memories, laughter and a lot of food is shared! As we join together to celebrate Australia Day, I think that it is important to recognise the opportunities this country has provided for so many people from all over the world who have come to call this island their home. My grandparents who are here today

immigrated to Australia from Malta in 1968 and were welcomed into this country where they started a completely new life and raised their three children. This decision was not an easy one to make, and it requires a very brave person to make this journey to an unknown country. This land has provided my grandfather with the chance to make connections between the Maltese and Australian cultures as he has written books, spoken on the radio and worked with the Maltese Community Council in order to recognise Maltese Australians. After Christmas, both my Maltese and Australian sides of the family unite in celebration to share a post-Christmas meal. This gathering is a common example of our racially diverse country, and represents Australia’s mixture and undivided embrace between different cultures. Here, we are also lucky enough to be able to celebrate our own cultures, whether that is a Maltese feast celebrating a patron saint, an Indigenous smoking ceremony, a thanksgiving meal, Ramadan, the Indian festival of Diwali or simply a ‘barbie’. That is what makes Australia the welcoming country it is and what makes you and I Australian. As we celebrate Australia Day, I feel proud to be a citizen of this culturally diverse country and I feel very lucky to be of both Australian and Maltese heritage. I think back to Katarine and her king fish and the island of Malta and I feel blessed that my grandparents dared to immigrate to this land. On Australia Day, I hope to share a meal with my family, perhaps a fresh fish, just like Katarine.

Thank you for having me!

I wish you all a joyful and meaningful Australia Day, in whatever form you wish to celebrate it. Grazie!



**As Maltese you feel proud to see the Maltese Community represented in the 2020 Australia Day Parade in Melbourne.**

**MALTESE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF VICTORIA**

## THE STREET NAMES OF THE CITY OF VALLETTA



It is often said that Valletta is a city built by gentlemen for gentlemen but it appears that every gentleman who set foot on it wanted to leave his mark... by changing street names.

A recent issue of the international journal *Rivista Italiana di Onomastica* reported that, over four centuries, the city of Valletta was home to four flags, four languages and four changes in street names.

Melita Street, for example, was Britannia Street under the British, Rue de la Félicité Publique under the French, was known by the Maltese as Strada del Gran Falconiere but had been originally baptised by the Knights as Strada Pia, after Pope Pius V, who was a generous benefactor of the city. Upon completion, Valletta streets were originally given Italian names but, when Napoleon invaded the island and Grand Master Ferdinand von Hompesch capitulated, these were substituted by French names. Two years later, the British came to the aid of the Maltese and took over the island. After 1927, as a language question statement, street names were changed to English. They are now in Maltese.

The article in the international journal was entitled 'The street names of the city of Valletta' and was penned by Italian language professor Joseph Brincat together with graduate Josianne Block and traces the history behind the street names.

They highlight the fact that streets in Valletta are popularly referred to as 'strade' – Strada Rjali, Strada San Paolo, Strada Sant'Ursula.

This was inherited from the knights, thanks to Francesco Laparelli, Michaelangelo's assistant on St Peter's dome, who was sent to Malta by Pope Pius V to draw up plans for the Valletta fortifications.

"Laparelli always wrote about the 'strade' of Valletta and never 'vie'," the authors say. The term stuck and remained four language changes down, to this very day. People from Valletta would never say Old Bakery Street but would refer to it as Strada Forni; they would say Strada Mezzodi rather than South Street.

East Street and St Paul Street were both renamed Rue de la Constitution by the French.

In the 16th century, streets were mostly named after saints for whom the religious order had a special devotion, such as San Marco, San Simone, San Pietro, San Federico, San Pantaleone, or else after key locations in the city such as Strada del Palazzo, Di Monte, della Fontana, Della Fortuna, Di Sant'Elmo.

Republic Street started off as Strada San Giorgio but, over the centuries, its name changed according to political needs.

It was Rue Nationale under the French. When the British first came to the islands, they renamed it Strada Reale – originally they were not too bothered about scrapping Italian. However, a century on, when it became a sensitive political issue, they changed the name to Kingsway. Although, post-1974, it became Republic Street, most Maltese still refer to it as Strada Rjali.

St George's Square, in front of the Grand Master's palace, originally was Piazza San Giorgio but the name went full circle really. Under the French it was called Place de la Liberté and under the British it was Palace Square. But the Maltese people know it informally as the Main Guard, with reference to the neo-classical building in front of the palace where parades to inspect the guards took place.

*Fresh from the revolution, the streets named after saints were swiftly erased to make way for civil names typical of the revolution ideology*

Strada Stretta has kept its name till today. Over the centuries, all those who ruled over the island seemed to agree there was no better name for the straight and narrow street. For a little while, it was known as Strada Vanella but this was short-lived and its more straightforward name survived.

With the arrival of the French, fresh from the revolution, the streets named after saints were swiftly erased to make way for civil names typical of the revolution ideology: Rue Nationale, Rue de la Constitution, Rue des Defenseurs de la Patrie, Rue de la Fraternité, Rue des Patriotes, Rue le L'Egalité, Rue des Libérateurs, Rue des Droits de l'Homme, Rue de Marchands, Rue des Fours and Rue de la Monnaie.

Strada Pia became Rue de la Félicité Publique, literally, street of public happiness.

Strada San Federico became Strada Brutus, after the (back) stabber of the Roman emperor, Julius Caesar.

However, French street names did not have time to gain popularity seeing as the Maltese pushed the French out after two years and reinstated the Italian names. During the British period, thanks to the improved relations between the Catholic Church and the governor, the saints were welcomed back to the city – in bilingual versions: Strada San Paolo was also St Paul Street.

The British kept most of the street names but added the adjective 'old' here and there. For example, Rue de Fours, became Strada Forni in

Italian but Old Bakery Street in English. Rue de la Monnaie became Old Mint Street; Strada Tesoreria was named Old Treasury Street.

The names were changed to Maltese after independence in 1964. Most were a mere translation from English. Some, however, did not survive. Britannia Street became Melita Street. Duke of York Avenue – the road from Floriana leading to Castille – was renamed Girolamo Cassar, the man behind the building of the city



## RECIPIENTS OF AUSTRALIAN HONOURS 2020

**JOANNA GERALDINE AGIUS SA** for service to people who are deaf or hard of hearing, and to the Indigenous community.

**MARK CARUANA** Marayong NSW for service to the Maltese community of New South Wales

**JUDITH ANNE SAMMUT** from Doncaster VICTORIA for service to community health.

**PATRICK JOSEPH BARTOLO** Toongabbie NSW– For service to the Maltese community of New South Wales.

## Consulate General of the Republic of Malta to Canada

### MALTESE-CANADIAN



## Huancané 2020 Shoëbox Campaign

St. Paul the Apostle Mission Group will be accepting donations of toys, toiletries and food as we start preparing for our mission trip to Huancané, Peru in August 2020. Our goal is to collect enough supplies to fill three hundred shoeboxes by April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

Suggested toiletry items that will be required are as follows:  
Eye drops , Deodorants , Q-Tips , Baby Wipes , Shampoo ,  
Toothpaste , Toothbrushes , Soap Bars , Dental Floss ,  
Band-aids , Combs , Brushes , Nail Clippers , Aspirin

Food items may include snack bars, canned foods, dried goods,  
juice boxes and any other non-perishable items.

Donations of new toys will be accepted and distributed to the children in Huancané as a separate effort to the shoebox campaign.

*All donations can be deposited in the mission box at the back of the church. Thank you in advance for your support!*

### COMMUNITY NEWS

#### The birth of a new **Maltese Canadian** organisation - St Paul The Apostle Mission Group

St Paul The Apostle Mission Group Coordinator, John Vella, paid a courtesy visit to Dr Raymond Xerri, Consul General of **Malta to Canada** at the Office of the Consul General in **Etobicoke, Toronto**. Mr Vella explained the **mandate** he was entrusted with by the Missionary Society of St Paul (MSSP) lead by the Maltese-Canadian parish pastor, Fr Mario Micallef, to work on assisting **MSSP** Missions world wide.

MSSP is a **global Maltese** organisation and has **missions** in **Sydney, Australia** (1948), **Toronto, Canada CA** (est. 1959), **Detroit, USA US** (1973), **#Arequipa, Peru PE** (1968), **Faisalabad, #Pakistan PK** (1982), **Manila, The Philippines** (1999) and in **Santa Clara, Cuba** (2017).

Mr Vella informed the Consul General of Malta to Canada that in **August**, the St Paul Mission Group will be organising a two-week-long missionary visit to **Peru PE** to assist the newly ordained MSSP **bishop**, Mgr Giovanni Cefai in his **project** to build a school for boys and girls in his vast parish territory.



**MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER**  
The journal of the Maltese Diaspora  
This magnificent and informative magazine can be obtained  
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to the editor Frank L. Scicluna  
or from the usual Malta Info Stations at the Consulate  
General of the Republic of Malta in Etobicoke,  
at St Paul The Apostle Church and the Melita Soccer Club  
on Dundas and at the Malta Band Club in Mississauga.  
Get a copy, read it and inform yourself.



## MALTESE-CANADIAN COMMUNITY NEWS

### Malta at the centre of a Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

This Worship Service with a focus in Malta and St Paul saw a packed Yorkminster Parkway Parish Church made up of a Catholics, Baptists, United Church, Pentecostals, Anglicans and Armenian Apostolic Church. The theme of the service was about, 'They showed us unusual kindness' (Acts 28:2).

The Maltese-Canadian delegation was lead by Fr Mario Micallef MSSP, Fr Ivan Burdian MSSP and Fr Karm Borg MSSP and a sizeable Maltese-Canadian parish members.

Dr Raymond Xerri, Consul General of Malta to Canada represented the Government of Malta at this historic service. After the prayer service lead by His Eminence Cardinal Thomas Collins of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Toronto a reception was held and a historic photo was taken with Cardinal.

## Celebrating our 5th Anniversary

### MALTESE CANADIAN CRUISER

Co-Founders Mr Arthur Griscti and Mr John G. Borg had a dream that became reality on



*2020 Celebrating Our 5th Anniversary*

January 2015 and that is when Maltese Canadian Cruisers was formed with a monthly car show (usually 3rd Sunday of the month) starting in May through September. In 2016 Mr Arthur Griscti resigned his position due to health reasons and Mr John G. Borg continued and kept the dream alive with the support of fellow members Mr Emanuel Schembri, Mr Fred Agius, Mr Tony Christina, Mr Joe Tonna and our D.J. Zack Tonna.

Our car shows grew to be a very popular among the locals with many out of town visitors joining us also. Our home base is the Malta Band Club 5745 Coopers Ave. Mississauga Ontario with occasional shows at our sponsor property. We welcome Classic Cars & Trucks, Special Interest Vehicles, All Years Classic & Modern Muscle Cars, Modified / Custom Vehicles and Bikes. This is a JUDGED SHOW with lots of prizes, 50/50 donation draw and a D.J. for your listening pleasure.



## MALTESE CANADIAN CRUISERS

With the new year 2020 with us a reminder that membership fees are now due. If you are not a member yet but wishes to join our club, our membership is \$25.00 for the season and you may contact us through FB Messenger. There is also plans to increase car shows for our 5th Anniversary with Malta Band Club being our home base there will also be additional shows at Sponsor premises. Looking forward to an even bigger year from our record breaking 2019.

## Archaeological discovery halts work on part of the Central Link project



**The finds are probably vine trenches that have low historical value** [Matthew Xuereb](#)

Archaeological remains, probably vine trenches, have been unearthed along part of the Central Link project. Photo: Chris Sant Fournier

Works have been temporarily halted on a part of the Central Link project where some form of archaeological remains were uncovered, roads agency Infrastructure Malta said.

It described the remains as probably being vine trenches that had low historical value. The rock-cut trenches will be cleaned by hand and documented by archaeologists.

A spokesman told Times of Malta that an investigation is being carried out on the discovery

and that work on that stretch of the project has been stopped until archaeological experts record the find and either gave their go-ahead for works to carry on or issue another order they deemed fit.

The €55 million road-widening project is intended to reduce travel times, improve air quality and create safer spaces for alternative modes of travel along the arterial road corridor between Mrieħel and Ta' Qali.

However, it has generated huge controversy over plans to chop down hundreds of trees and destroy agricultural land to make way for the wider road.

Photographs of the archaeological find emerged earlier this week when they were posted online. The images show a series of parallel trenches dug into the rock beneath the soil.

Environmentalists claimed the archaeologists monitoring the ongoing works told them that "all the land that is being uncovered is most probably Roman age, which was once used for vine fields".

*The land being uncovered is most probably Roman age*

However, a spokesman for Transport Malta said the archaeologists, who are answerable to the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage, which is monitoring the works, denied confirming this to passers-by.

“They never made such a statement. This is the second time that false allegations about archaeological findings during the Central Link project works have been made. A few days ago, a similar allegation that historic rock-cut features were being destroyed also turned out to be untrue,” he said.

He explained that [the first works of the project](#) included the removal of top layers of soil and other materials to expose the underlying rock surface.

Once these layers were removed, and before any excavations commenced, the archaeologists study the rock surface to look for any remains that may be worth recording or, if necessary, preserving, the spokesman added.

Infrastructure Malta and the Superintendence were engaged in similar collaborations during the reconstruction of Aldo Moro Road, as part of the Marsa Junction project, during the implementation

of the Santa Luċija Underpass project, which is still in progress, as well as during the reconstruction of Xarolla Avenue, in Żurrieq and Il-Kučċard Road, Safi, among others.

The spokesman said that, in such situations, the rock-cut features are cleaned, carefully documented and analysed.

“If they are found to warrant protection and preservation, the Superintendence will liaise with Infrastructure Malta to identify the required project plan modifications,” he said.

“If they confirm that the findings are not of a significant archaeological importance, the Superintendence will permit the continuation of works as per approved plans.”

Infrastructure Malta said it will continue working with all authorities to upgrade the quality of infrastructure while preserving and improving nearby rural and urban environments and cultural heritage.



**Report:** Keith Demicoli

Later this year various areas in Malta will be used to feature in the making of the blockbuster film ‘Jurassic World 3’ which is expected to be released in cinemas in June of next year 2021.

The last film produced in this series had a budget of over €150 million.

From May onward don’t be surprised to see dinosaurs rushing around the streets of Malta, the theme which marked the ending of the previous film in the series, ‘Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom’ which

was released in 2018. ‘Jurassic World 3’ will be the sixth feature in the series following the first Steven Spielberg production of ‘Jurassic Park’ in 1993.

Actors including Sam Neill, Jeff Goldblum and Laura Dern, who featured in ‘Jurassic’ Park, are expected to be in Malta to feature in the latest production.

Colin Trevorrow will probably direct the film which will also shoot scenes in Canada, the US and Britain.

Films Commissioner Johan Grech said the choice of Malta is the result, among other factors, of an updated strategy by the Commission and the new incentives which between May and December last year attracted 21 productions to Malta and left €40 million in the country’s economy. A biblical film is currently being shot in Manoel Island and Valletta.



## HERITAGE MALTA LAUNCHES HERITAGE MALTA SENIOR PASSPORT FOR OVER 60S



Heritage Malta, within the Ministry for Justice, Culture and Local Government, has launched a scheme aimed at Senior Citizens – the Heritage Malta Senior Passport.

With this passport, an elder and two accompanying youths will have free and unlimited access to all Heritage Malta's sites and museums (except the Hal Saffieni Hypogeum).

Heritage Malta explained that this scheme will be supported by the Local Councils' Association and a memorandum of understanding will be signed in the coming days to effectively implement this scheme. It said that individuals

who are aged 60+ are invited to call with their identity card at their Local Councils to apply for Heritage Malta's Senior Passport.

The Local Council staff will enrol them in the system, and the passport together with an information leaflet will be received by post within 10 working days.

Heritage Malta's Senior Passport holders can enjoy free and unlimited visits to 27 sites which include prehistoric temples and caves, historic houses and prisons, fortresses and palaces, and a selection of museums relating to nature, archaeology, maritime, war, and art.

The Passport is to be stamped on each visit since with every 8 stamps collected, a reward will be given to the holder, to a total of 3 rewards, Heritage Malta said.

## SAN PAWL MILQI – THE PLACE WHERE SAINT PAUL WAS WELCOMED

San Pawl Milqi is situated on a flat plateau up the slopes of Wardija Hill and overlooking the Burmarrad plain. It gets its name from the small chapel of San Pawl Milqi that replaced the 15th century chapel of San Pawl Bindichi in the mid-17th century. The chapels were built on the remains of a villa. In the 17th century it was claimed that the visible remains are those of Publius' villa and the place where St Paul was welcomed by the First Citizen. This claim consolidated local belief and strongly prejudiced the directors of the Italian Archaeological Mission which was in Malta between 1963 and 1968.

The excavations of the Italian Mission were not the first 'investigations' of the site. It was partially cleared by Vincenzo Fenech between 1878 and 1879 and suffered considerable damage by military earthworks that were dug during the course of World War I. A small Palaeochristian



Hypogeum was excavated by Sir Temi Zammit around 1905 but its exact location was lost immediately after. The site uncovered by the Italian Mission shows an area with a long history of use or occupation.

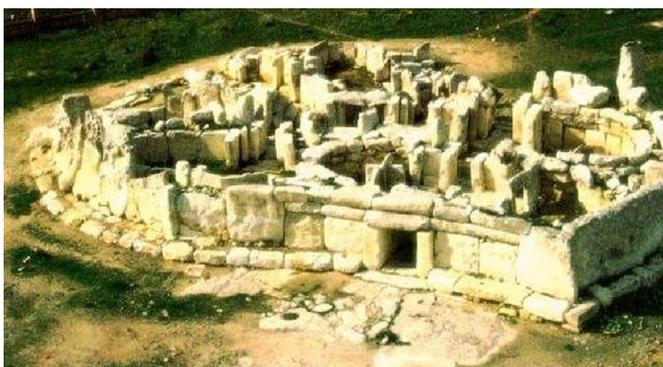
The first attested use of the site was in the Zebbug phase (4100 – 3800 BC) the evidence for which comes from three Zebbug phase tombs. Scatters of Borg in-Nadur pottery shards show that the site or its immediate vicinities were also occupied during the Borg in-Nadur phase (1500 – 700BC). Although structural remains are scant, occupation of the site during the Phoenicio-Punic period is clearly attested by the various pottery remains and by two 3rd century BC tombs also discovered on the site.

## BEAUTY OF MALTA IN A NUTSHELL

- **Do you know what Maltese eat?** They love some great rabbit meat, Maltese breads and Pastizzi.
- A lot of people think that Malta is an island but it not alone. Some people know it as an archipelago of three islands, **Gozo, Comino and Malta** but its five – Malta, Gozo, Comino, Comminotto, and Filflawith. Only 3 are habitable – Malta, Gozo, and Comino.
- The country is very-very old. The civilizations have been there since the early Neolithic period of 5000 BC. **Megalithic Monuments are the world UNESCO heritage sites.**
- Maltese are the descendants of ancient **Carthaginians and Phoenicians**. While it has been part of the Roman empire, later it has also been under the British rule.
- For a long time, it was also under the **Arab rule**. The impact was such that that Maltese language was sprinkled with Arabic elements. After that came the ruler of Sicily and he defeated the Arabs. There was a small period when Napoleon also conquered Malta.
- Malta has been through **11 foreign rules**. In 1964, it finally became independent of British rule.
- It is believed that Malta is derived from the word "**Melite**" meaning "**sweet honey**" as special kind of bees are found here which produce a unique kind of honey.
- The locals believe that the first inhabited caves were found in Malta. **The Megalithic Temples** are also claimed to be the oldest free standing structures of the world.
- **Valletta is one of the tiniest capitals**. It is home to gorgeous architecture. Also it is identified as UNESCO World Heritage Site. It has more than 200 historic monuments.
- Do you know that one can visit a new church everyday and still keep a count round the year. **Malta has 365 different churches** and more.
- The **village feasts of Malta** are very unique. One single village or a group of villages host gala feasts every Sunday. The months of celebration are between June to September. These feasts are big affair and they are done in honor of the town's patron saint. The decorations are lovely. I did have a chance to see one of the decorated villages.

The Miracle church. **The Church of the Assumption of Our Lady in Mosta was hit by two bombs during World War II.** The mass was going. It could have been devastating but the bombs only fell on the ground. They did not explode. No one knows why. Later they were diffused and dropped in the sea. A replica of it is placed in the church. Maltese boats are very colourful and decorated. A pair of eyes are painted on either side. It is believed that they are **Eyes of Osiris** and they protect the boats from evil eyes

## 5000-Year-Old Hagar Qim Preserved Limestone Temple In Malta



**MessageToEagle.com** – The Neolithic cultures of Malta left a legacy of some of the most magnificent temples. It is believed that ancient Malta's natural surroundings deeply inspired building traditions of its people.

Ancient builders used limestone as a basic material for their creations, because the country that covers over 300 square kilometers (including the outlying islands

of Gozo and Comino) is basically composed of this material.

Hagar Qim Temple of Neolithic Malta

They created many megalithic temples and through these powerful structures they expressed their religious beliefs.

One of such temples is *Hagar Qim Temple*, located on the main island of Malta, representing one of the best preserved megalithic temples of Malta.

Not much is known about this structure.

During the restoration work in 1949, four small figurines of fat women's bodies were found in the temple of Hagar Qim. Similar figurines were found in several places in Malta and is expected to represent the Mother Goddess.

The temple of Hagar Qim was excavated for the first time in 1839 and dates back to c. 3600 – 3200 BC. It stands on a hilltop overlooking the sea and the islet of Filfla.

Among important finds unearthed at Hagar Qim's ruins, there are two table altars and some of the 'fat lady' statues on display in the National Museum of Archaeology, Valletta and a decorated pillar altar.

Left: 'Porthole' doorway hewn out of a single megalith; Right: carved stone blocks found at Hagar Qim in 1839.

The architecture of Hagar Qim is typical of prehistoric Malta; the temple is circular in form with a clear line of site through the central passage, which is very different to the other temples, which have a single entrance/exit facing onto a ceremonial forecourt.

Its shape resembles a cloverleaf with walls consisting of two parallel walls at a distance of 2 meters. The

space between the two walls is filled with stones and sand, making it to a solid, millennia-old wall.

Figurines from Hagar Qim, National Museum of Archaeology of Malta. Photo: via Wikimedia Commons.org

The length – width ratio is approximately 40 to 30 meters and some of the megalithic blocks are over 6 and even 7 meters high, which make the tallest of any of the Malta's temples; many stones are decorated with spiral designs. It is unclear whether there was ever a roof top. The walls do not seem to be made to wear megalithic roof plates.

Hagar Qim itself consists of a single temple unit. The structure along with other megalithic temples of Malta are said to be amongst the most

ancient religious sites and the oldest standing stone structures on Earth.

[MessageToEagle.com](http://MessageToEagle.com)

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## Learning to Swim: An Australian Birthright



By Isabella Kwai

Recently, in my 20s, I decided to finally learn to swim.

It wasn't that I couldn't keep afloat. Like many Australians, I'd learned the fundamentals of how not to die in open water during school classes. But for a child of Chinese immigrants who'd settled in a Sydney suburb miles from the ocean, swimming was more a matter of survival than of sport. Last year, we lived through the hottest, driest year we could remember, setting the scene for a fierce fire season in which thousands turned to bodies of water as a literal refuge from smoke and fire — a somber sight for coast-dwellers who had more pleasant associations with beaches, pools and inlets.

Living inland, we had less access to water. The trip to the beach was always a drawn-out affair. Once a year, we'd pack drinks and food (there were always slices of watermelon, for some reason) into the car. Then, after enduring seatbelts hot to the touch and the drama of finding a parking spot, there the horizon was, sparkling away.

My parents rarely went in the ocean. Instead, they sat in the shade and inhaled the other Australian birthright — deep, full breaths of fresh sea air. Chest-deep in the waves was as far as I dared to go, watching the far-off swimmers in their caps and goggles slip through the water like seals.

The public perception of water as key to the Australian identity was never so apparent as when I lived in the United States. Over small talk in bars and at house parties, it felt both irksome and strange to admit: no, I didn't know how to surf. (And also, what on earth is a bloomin' onion?) But it made me look at the ocean and wonder if I'd missed something essential. In landlocked cities where I stayed, I longed at odd moments for the smell of saltwater.

Upon my return to Australia a few years ago, I found a home and the means to live closer to the water, and began splashing and gasping my way to reconciliation with another sliver of mainstream Australian identity. Friends with greater lung capacities showed me some of their secrets, and I started practicing.

I'm still learning the correct way to turn my head in freestyle, and I may have kicked someone in the shoulder last week. But there are moments when my body and the water seem to merge and the wave drives all thoughts from my mind, and I understand. It's a spiritual refuge that a lucky few of us in the world enjoy.

But like many others who have seen smoke blur the horizon and ash rain from the sky, I wonder: how much longer will it stay that way?

"We all know that when we look after the Earth with the same respect that we would look after someone dear and near to us, with the same compassion we would help a friend in need, it is not about 'being sustainable'; it is about respect. It is not about being 'environmental'; it is seeing ourselves as a part of the environment. That is the change we need to be in the world: To see the Earth as a part of us and not something we just treat as subservient to us, for the world keeps giving and we keep taking.

"I love this quote by Alanis Obomsawin: 'When the last tree is cut, the last fish is caught, and the last river is polluted; when to breathe the air is sickening, you will realize, too late, that wealth is not in bank accounts and that you can't eat money.' -Regina Power



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Supported by the NSW Community Languages Schools Program, NSW Department of Education

<https://www.facebook.com/skolamaltijasynedey/>

## St Paul the Apostle Parish

### St Paul's Feast Dinner Dance

February 8, 2020 – 6:30 p.m.

*The Malta Band  
opens the entertainment*



*Enzo Guzman  
accompanies us throughout  
the night*

- Antipasto "hobz biz-zejt"
- lasagna
- Roast beef, baked potatoes, mixed vegetables
- salad
- Ice cream
- coffee & pastries
- 2 bottles of wine on table

**Bookings:**

Freda 416-762-1891

or at the Church

**Tickets:**

Children 0-5 yrs: free

Children 5-12 yrs: \$20.00

Adults: \$45.00

## PLACES AROUND THE WORLD NAMED MALTA

Wherever you go in the world, you're more than likely to bump into a Maltese person. For example, there are more people with Maltese heritage living in Australia as there are living in Malta. And with millions of people located around the globe with an affinity to Malta, it's likely you'll find some places that sound very familiar. Probably the most obvious example is the town of Malta in New York State. But did you know there was a Lake Malta in Poland?

**LAKE MALTA, POLAND** Lake Malta is an artificial lake in Poznań, Poland. It was formed in 1952 as a result of the damming of the Cybina River.

**2. MALTA TERRACE, EDINBURGH** Malta Terrace is a Georgian lane in the posh suburb of Stockbridge in the Scottish capital

**VALLETTA LANE, MELBOURNE** Valletta Lane is a busy street near Altona Beach in the Altona district of Melbourne

**LITTLE MALTA, TORONTO** Did you know Toronto has a neighbourhood called Little Malta? Thousands of Maltese ex-pats settled in Canada in the years after the Second World War.

**MALTA INN, KENT** The Malta Inn in Maidstone is one of the most popular Beefeater restaurants in the south-east of England.

**THE MALTA BAR, HERTFORDSHIRE** The Malta Bar in Harpenden features a map of Malta as its logo.

**MALTA SQUARE, QUEEN'S, NEW YORK CITY** Malta Square is located in Astoria in Queen's where thousands of Maltese and Gozitan families live and work.

**MALTA STREET, LONDON** Malta Street is situated in Islington in north London

**MALTA, NEW YORK** Malta is a town in Saratoga County, New York. The town's population is 13,000.

**MALTA, AUSTRIA** Malta is a municipality in the district of Spittal an der Drau, in the Austrian state of Carinthia.

**MALTA TERRACE, GLASGOW** Malta Terrace is a smart residential street in the Gorbals area of the city, near the River Clyde

**MALTA, LATVIA** Malta is a small village in Latvia's hilly province of Latgale – a picturesque region full of lakes, forests and hills

**MALTA, IDAHO** Malta is a village in Cassia County, Idaho, United States. The population was 193 in the 2010 census.

**CORTO MALTESE, CROATIA** The Corto Maltese is one of the most popular bars in Rijeka, the third-largest city in Croatia. It is located next to the city's harbour on Kvarner Bay.

**MALTA PARK, TORONTO CANADA** Malta Park is a small park with a playground in the heart of the Junction district of Toronto in Ontario.

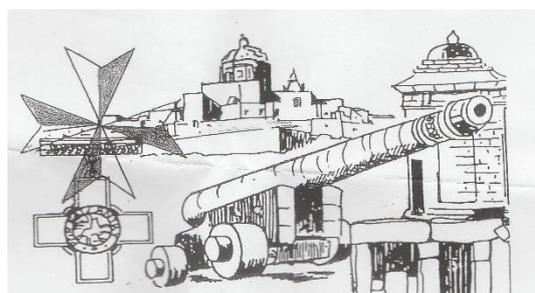
**GALERIA MALTA, POLAND** Galeria Malta is one of Poland's largest shopping centres and features more than 150 stores as well as a cinema complex and a sports facility.

**MALTA MILL, GREATER MANCHESTER UK** Malta Mill is a former cotton spinning mill in Chadderton and lies alongside the Rochdale Canal

**MALTA, SIBERIA** Malta is a tiny village in the Irkutsk Oblast region of southeastern Siberia in Russia

**MALTA ROAD, PORTSMOUTH, HAMPSHIRE** UK Malta Road is in the Portsea Island area of the English city, near the Royal Naval Dockyard

**A MALTA, MARINA DI RAGUSA** -  
**GOZO ROAD AT GREYSTAINES NEW SOUTH WALES AUSTRALIA** - **VALETTA ROAD, FULHAM GARDENS, SOUTH AUSTRALIA**



**PUBLISHED BY  
MALTESE LIVING  
ABROAD**

**FOR MALTESE  
LIVING ABROAD**

## President in Poland for Auschwitz commemoration



President George Vella is attending the official commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the liberation of German Nazi concentration and extermination camp Auschwitz. A special tent will be erected above the Gate of Death of the former Auschwitz II-Birkenau camp.

The ceremony is being held on Monday. President Vella left Malta for Poland on Sunday. The victims killed in Auschwitz-Birkenau, 40% of whom were Poles, included Jews, gypsies and prisoners from 20 countries.

More than 50 heads of state and world leaders are attending the ceremony. Malta's delegation will also include Foreign Minister Evarist Bartolo.

In Poland, President Vella will have meetings with Krakow archbishop Marek Jedraszewski and mayor Jacek Majchrowski. He will also address students at the Jagiellonian University, one of the oldest and most prestigious universities in Europe. He will also meet senior officials from the university.

While the President is in Poland, Dolores Cristina is acting president.



## From a rectangular wooden box to a Maltese Clock (Tal-Lira)

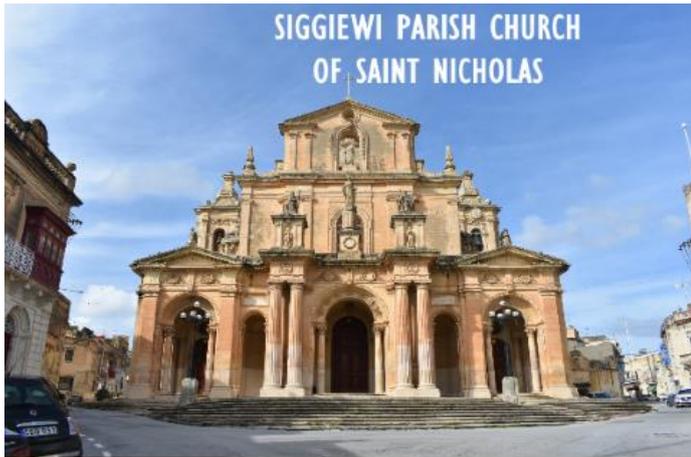
Countries around the world have their own idiosyncrasies and traditions inherited from their predecessors. And the Maltese islands, are no exception.

Among our national treasures and prized possessions, in addition to being an integral part of our Maltese identity, is the Maltese Clock (Tal-Lira).

The clock was put on the market after a lot of handwork carried out with unparalleled precision. Unsurprisingly, today these watches are worth far more than a pound. After all, you get what you pay for. However, despite the refined end product, the Maltese Clock is ultimately the handiwork of a carpenter, who works a wooden box. Among the brains behind the design of these Clocks is Arthur Vassallo. With the patience of Job, Arthur encases the wooden box with gold sheets, carves out a number of beautiful designs, and paints it with all types of colours and scenes.

Finally, the mechanical mechanism operated with a rope is attached. And, at this stage, the Clock is good to go and ready to inhabit a corner of any Maltese home around the islands.

**TIMES OF MALTA - 28 January 2020**



SIGGIEWI PARISH CHURCH  
OF SAINT NICHOLAS

### Rests of old parish church

This church was built around the 15<sup>th</sup> century, but hardly anything survived. In 1998 these ruins were classified as a Heritage site. In 2007 the church was restored.

In Siggiewi we find several churches and chapels, some of them in the core of the village and some in the outskirts.

### St Mark chapel

This chapel is dedicated to Saint Mark. It was demolished and rebuilt in 1608. This chapel was built by Francesco Mamo. This chapel is in Triq il-Kbira.

### Churches and chapels

**SIGGIEWI MALTA**

Siggiewi also called by its title Città Ferdinand, is a city and a local council in the South of Malta. It is situated on a plateau, a few kilometres away from Mdina, ancient capital city of Malta, and 10 kilometres away from Valletta, the contemporary capital. It is the home of 8367 inhabitants

### Ċwejra chapel

This chapel is dedicated to Saint Mary. One can see the small chapel at the lower end of main village square. It was built in 1742 and funds were provided by Dominicans Fathers of Birgu. It's last restoration was in 2005.

## Fantastic Bit of Malta's History



St. Mary Magdalene Chapel – Dingli

This is a small and simple wayside chapel on the Dingli Cliffs in Malta, in the town of the same name. This chapel was built in 1646 on the site of an earlier chapel. On the chapel is a sign typical of wayside chapels in Malta. “**Non gode l’immunita ecclesias**” means the Right of Sanctuary was revoked for these chapels in 1777 meaning outlaws can no longer seek shelter and claim protection from arrest and prosecutions in these chapels. The view from the area is spectacular. The early renaissance façade of this chapel is well worth a visit.



## AFTER BREXIT

Britain is set to formally leave the European Union (EU) on **31 January 2020**.



**MORE THAN 2.8 MILLION APPLICATIONS TO THE EU SETTLEMENT SCHEME**



EU Settlement Scheme applications are available on the following link:  
<https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>

If you're an EU, EEA or Swiss citizen, you and your family can apply to the EU Settlement Scheme to continue living in the UK after **30 June 2021**. If your application is successful, you will get either settled or pre-settled status. The deadline for applying is **30 June 2021** but we encourage local European citizens to apply before **31 December 2020** when Brexit transition rules are set to end. It's free to apply to the scheme.

### Who can apply

You can find out who is required to apply for pre-settled or settled status on GOV.UK. There will be no change to current rights under EU law until the end of the planned implementation period on **31 December 2020**.

**Identity verification** You will need to verify your ID during your application. There are several ways of doing this.

**Android and iPhone app** You can use it to scan your ID yourself using the free EU exit: ID document check app.

Android: [download the app on Google Play](#).

iOS: [download the app on the App Store](#).

**Online and by post** If you are currently in the UK, you can apply online and then post your documents for checking.

Start an application online at GOV.UK <https://apply-to-visit-or-stay-in-the-uk.homeoffice.gov.uk/>

To book an appointment to use the EU settlement service, call 020 8726 6000 extension 50106 between 1:30pm and 4pm, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.