



CONSULATE OF MALTA  
IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

NEWSLETTER

FRANK L SCICLUNA - LINKING MALTA AND AUSTRALIA

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## 4<sup>TH</sup> CONVENTION FOR MALTESE LIVING ABROAD

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs would like to inform the Maltese diaspora and the general public that the next convention for Maltese Living Abroad will take place on 20-23 April 2015. Preparations are currently ongoing and the Ministry would like to hear from those who are interested in participation at the fourth 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 arts exhibition, literary symposium and a drawing exhibition by school children across the island relating to themes linked with the Diaspora.

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 attached form. This form is to be sent via email on [convention2015.mfa@gov.mt](mailto:convention2015.mfa@gov.mt). Alternatively, the form may be sent to the following postal address:

The Director

Directorate for Maltese Living Abroad

Directorate-General for Political, European Affairs and Maltese Abroad

Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Palazzo Parisio, Merchant's Street Valletta – VLT 1171 Malta

All forms (by electronic mail or by post) must reach the Ministry for Foreign Affairs by not later than Thursday 14 August 2014 (12.00hrs CET).

**MALTESE NEWSLETTER IS REACHING WELL OVER  
1 000 READERS AND STILL COUNTING**  
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## KITTIEB MALTI FL-AWSTRALJA JOE AXIAQ

Joe Axiaq twieled iz-Zebbug Ghawdex fit-8 ta' Dicembru 1954. Wara li spicca l-Iskola Sekondarja fir-Rabat Ghawdex, emigra lejn l-Awstralja fl-1974. Hemmhekk beda jahdem bhala Ufficjal Amministrattiv mal-kumpanija tat—telekomunikazzjoni ewlenija fl-Awstralja. Fl-istess Zmien fl-Awstralja beda l-qawmien multikulturali u t-twaqqif tax-xandir etniku fuq Radio 3EA u aktar tard l-SBS.



Joe Axiaq kien wiehed mill-pijunieri li beda jaghti sehm bhal xandar tal-programmi Maltin. Kien involut fit-twaqqif tal-Malta Youth fl-1976 u fit-twaqqif tal-Maltese Literature Group, fl-Awstralja fl-1979 minbarra li hadem f'ghadd ta' kumitati b'risq it-tixrid u z-zamma tal-kultura Maltija fl-Awstralja. Aktar tard kompla bit-tahrig u l-istudju tieghu fil-managment u t-teknika tal-produzzjoni tal-programmi tar-radju. Beda jahdem mal-SBS f'diversi karigi fosthom bhala Senior Producer u mbaghad bhala Executive Producer, responsabbli mill-programmi Maltin imxandra mic-Centri tal-SBS f'Melbourne u f' Sydney.

Bhala kittieb ta' novelli u poeziji, Joe Axiaq beda jikteb ta' eta' zghira. Bosta novelli u poeziji tieghu xxandru fi programmi letterarji minn fuq ir-Rediffusion, Radju Malta u rivisti letterarji, pagni letterarji u antologiji Maltin fosthom dawk mahruga mill-Ghaqda Letterarja Maltija. Ko-awtur tal-ktieb ta' poeziji Bejn Vjagg u lehor (1979) u Irjeh (1987). Kiteb u pproduca ghadd ta' radjudrammi u programmi letterarji ghall-SBS. Ippubblika ghadd ta' artikli fuq sfond storiku u kulturali ta' zmien tfulitu fir-rahall taz-Zebbug Ghawdex. Ippubblika wkoll ricerka dwar il-filosfu, kittieb u edukatur Dr Joe Abela li hadem bla heda ghall-kawza tal-Malti fl-Awstralja.

Joe Axiaq ghadu kemm ippubblika ktieb ta' poeziji – IMXI FTIT PASSI MIEGHI

### Imxi ftit passi mieghi



Poeziji ta' Joe Axiaq

### MARA AFRIKANA

Tixtieq tghaid lil kulhadd  
Dil-mara Afrikana  
Wicc in-niket  
Li giet l-Awstralja bis-sewwa  
Ghal tbissima hanina  
U maghha ftit hlewwa  
Li taf titkellem bl-Ingiliz  
Tahtem u thallas it-taxxa  
U f'qalbha t-tama tal-bosta  
Ta' dan pajjiz haddiehor  
Ghal min jinvadi legali  
Biex tkun parti mill-kotra.

03/05/2012

Wahda mill-poeziji mimlija tifsira

## NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING FOR MH17 VICTIMS



An official memorial service for the 298 people on board the Malaysia Airlines jet that crashed in Ukraine was held at St Patrick's Cathedral in Melbourne.

Flags were flown at half mast across the country in honour of the 298 people who perished in flight MH17 tragedy.

Governor-General Sir Peter Cosgrove, Prime Minister Tony Abbott and Opposition Leader Bill Shorten are among the attendees at the multi-faith service, along with the Dutch ambassador and Malaysian

high commissioner.

For the families of passengers who were aboard flight MH17 the grief of losing their loved ones remains raw. "We grieve for all of them but particularly for the 38 who called Australia home. Today, we will remember them and we will honour them," the Prime Minister said. "We will give thanks for their lives and we will pray for their loved ones."

Among those being honoured today are the Maslin children from Perth - Mo, Evie and Otis.

Foreign Minister Julie Bishop broke down while recalling the moment she spoke to the children's parents. "I knew from the moment I talked to that family that we were doing the right thing. And when they said to me as I hung up just bring them home, whatever we did over the next two weeks was to do that," Ms Bishop said.



Half a world away, investigators in Ukraine have suspended their search for body parts at the MH17 crash site on Wednesday because of deteriorating security in eastern Ukraine, Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte said.

"It doesn't make sense to continue with the repatriation in this manner," the Dutch leader told a press conference in The Hague.

Rutte said increasing tension between Kiev -- which is battling pro-Russian separatists in the area -- has made it too unsafe to continue with the search for

victims' remains.

Thanks for keeping me always in copy with this very interesting newsletter. It looks that you dedicate very precious time in it to keep it informative and interesting. Well done! Ryan Mallia Malta

Sent from my iPad



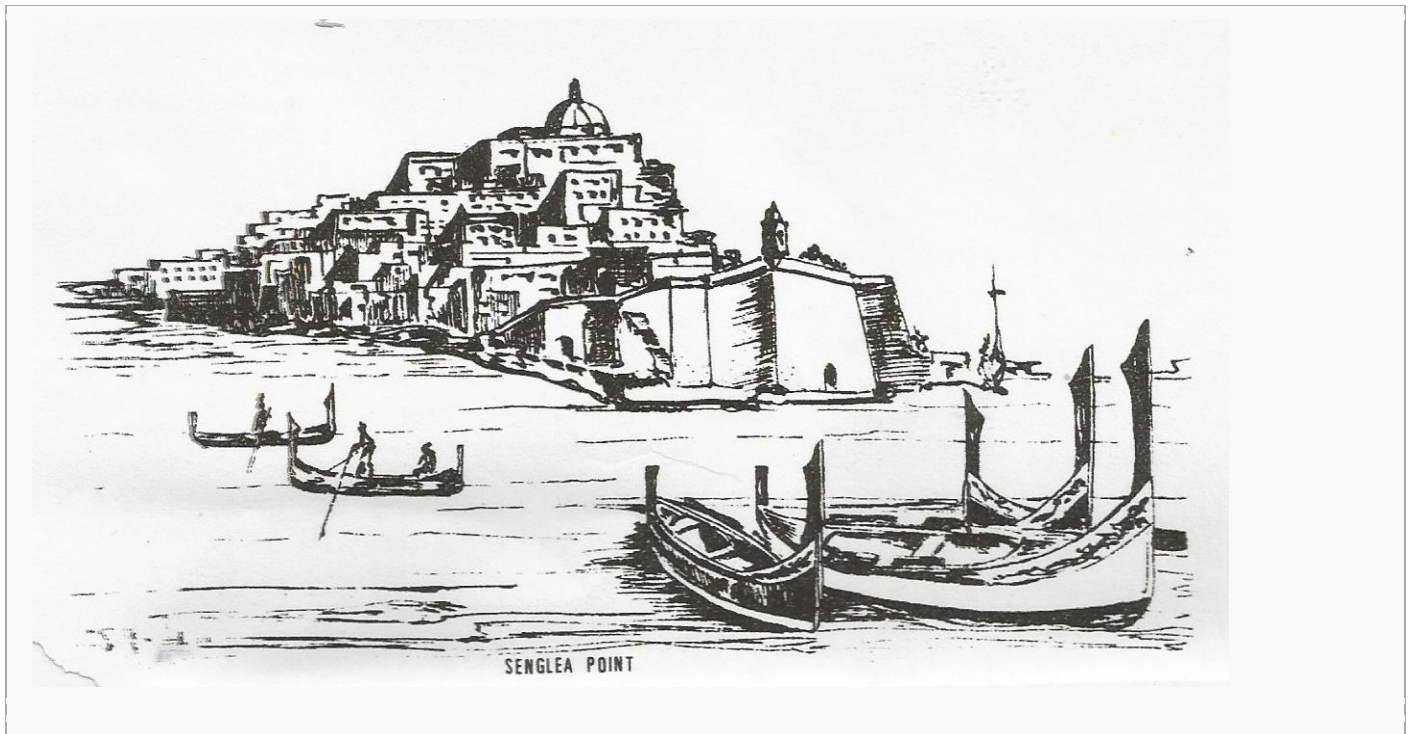


Valletta guarded by its own fortifications.



**SENGLA** - THE FAMOUS GARDJOLA (PRONOUNCED GARDYOLA),

## DESTINATION MALTA – CITY OF SENGLEA – L-ISLA



**Senglea** (Maltese: *L-Isla*), also known by its title **Città Invicta** (or **Civitas Invicta**), is a fortified city in the east of Malta, mainly in the Grand Harbour area. It is one of the Three Cities in the east of Malta, the other two being Cospicua and Vittoriosa, and has a population of slightly below three thousand people. The city's title Città Invicta was given because it managed to resist the Ottoman invasion at the Great Siege of Malta in 1565. The name is Senglea since the grandmaster who built it, Claude de la Sengle, gave this city a part of his name.

Like most of the walled cities of Malta, the way to truly appreciate Senglea is on foot. Visit the Church of St. Philip and that of Our Lady of Victories and head to the tip of the peninsula to enjoy the gardens and the wonderful views of the harbour from the famous Gardjola (pronounced Gardyola), a decorated watch-tower or vedette that has become a favourite Maltese icon.

Several streets in Senglea have steps which lead down to its most stunning area... the waterfront and the marina. For a moment you may think of Venice, until the sight of the typical Maltese boats brings you back home. In fact, why not take a ride on one of the fishing boats for a private cruise around the harbour during sunset?

End the evening with a tasty dinner al fresco at one of the simple kiosks or restaurants on the picturesque waterfront to truly enjoy the beauty of Birgu's Fort St Angelo and Valletta's fortifications lit up in a charming orange hue. The abundant presence of the locals add to the ethnic Maltese flavour, with their down-to-earth, frank and friendly mannerisms.

This setting makes it hard to imagine that the whole of Senglea had been bombed and destroyed during the Second World War and had to be almost completely rebuilt. The reason for this harsh bombardment lay in the



fact that the wharves beneath the bastions of Isla had been converted into a Naval Dockyard by the British, who enlarged and developed the shipyard that was originally started by the Knights of the Order of St John. The Malta Shipyard in Senglea has for long held a name in the entire Mediterranean region and commands the importance of the Grand Harbour of Malta.

Even during the Great Siege of 1565, Senglea's role in the defence against Turkish attacks was formidable. In fact Senglea gets its name from Grand Master Fra Claude de La Sengle who, in 1553, completed the fortifications started by Grand Master Fra Juan D'Homedes who had also erected Fort Saint Michael. Isla, on the other hand, is thought to be a derivative from Isola, meaning island, although in actual fact the city lies on a peninsula.

## Traditional Maltese Food



The Maltese cuisine is a standard bearer of the Mediterranean diet and reflects the regional influences that left their mark on the islands over the centuries.

During your visit, we recommend the following for your enjoyment:

The Maltese cuisine is right at the heart of the Mediterranean Diet.

- *Aljotta* ( "Maltese Fish Soup"). Made from fresh fish, herbs, garlic and tomatoes.
- *Mqarrun il-Forn* ( "Maltese Baked Macaroni"). This is a mixture of macaroni, eggs, bolognese sauce, peas, and bacon.
- *Ross il-Forn* ( "Baked Rice"). Eggs, bolognese sauce, peas and bacon are added to a dish of rice, spiced with curry, and baked.
- *Rabbit Stew*. It probably qualifies as the most traditional Maltese dish, typically served over spaghetti.
- *Qargha Baghli Mimli* ("Maltese Stuffed Marrows"). Enriched with beef and fresh herbs and, preferably, baked.
- *Pastizzi* and *Qassatat*. Filodough filled with fresh Maltese fresh cheeselets or peas. The dough in *qassatat* is less oily.
- *Hobz tal-Malti* ("Traditional Maltese Bread"). Shaped like a cannon ball succumbing under its own weight. Its hard crust encases a soft delicious interior.
- *Kinnie*. Malta's traditional soft drink. Tastes like a Campari turned into a soda without the alcohol.

## Updated - Spectacular Supermoon



This photo of supermoon rising behind Mdina Cathedral was featured on newspapers and websites in several countries.

The picture was taken by Times of Malta/Reuters photographer Darrin Zammit Lupi.

It also featured on the front page of the Times of Malta and on Russia Today, Times of India, Wall Street Journal, Yahoo, Globe and Mail, Baltimore Sun, Globo, Chicago Tribune, La Repubblica and Paris Match.

## **MALTAPOST SPECIAL HAND POSTMARK – 150 SENA KATIDRAL – SINGULARI AMORI** Gozo News August7, 2014

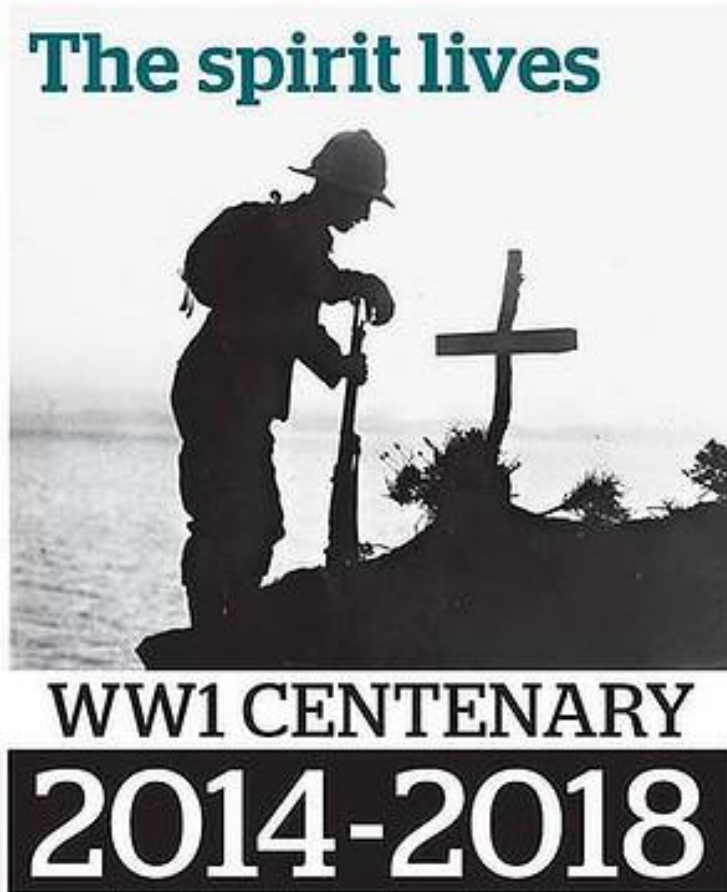


For the occasion of the 150th Anniversary of the foundation of the Gozo Cathedral, MaltaPost has said that a special hand postmark will be used on Monday, the 11th of August 2014 at the Victoria, Gozo Post Office.

Orders for this special hand postmark may be placed online at [maltaphilately.com](http://maltaphilately.com) or by mail from the Philatelic Bureau, MaltaPost p.l.c. 305, Triq Hal Qormi, Marsa, MTP 1001

– Telephone 2596 1740 – e-mail: [info@maltaphilately.com](mailto:info@maltaphilately.com)

## **WORLD WAR I DEAD TO BE HONOURED IN LIGHT SPECTACULAR - AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL CANBERRA**



The names of each of the 62,000 Australians who died in World War I will be emblazoned, one by one, onto the stones of the Hall of Memory at the Australian War Memorial over the next four years.

The projection of each of the names will be visible all the way down Anzac Avenue and across Lake Burley Griffin, and descendants will be advised when their fallen relative will be commemorated in light.

Each name will be projected for 30 seconds on 19 occasions over the next four years, the war memorial's director, Brendan Nelson, says.

The voices of schoolchildren reciting the names and age at death of all 62,000 will also be heard over the four-year commemorative period as visitors wander the First World War Cloister at the memorial. Children across Australia have been reading and recording the names since early this year and will continue for the next few years.

Schoolchildren are also writing their personal thoughts on 100,000 small wooden crosses that will be given to travellers to place on gravestones and memorials at Australian war cemeteries throughout the world.

The Roll of Honour light projection and soundscape will be activated from August 4, the date on which Great Britain - and Australia - declared war on Germany 100 years ago, and will continue until November 2018.

The project is part of a massive multimillion-dollar program being organised by the War Memorial for the centenary of World War I. The memorial building itself will be "repainted" by light projections during the period, and its familiar shape has been stylised for the official centenary logo, superimposed over the words "Their spirit our pride 2014-18".

Dr Nelson said the centenary events were a commemoration, and not a "celebration", of Australia's role in the war. "The centenary is an opportunity for Australians to look back on this momentous event in world history, to understand the impact it had on our nation, and to remember the service and sacrifice of our First World War soldiers," he said.

The memorial's First World War galleries are being modernised with the use of new technology to help explain the war, and its famous dioramas are being freshened. Exhibitions of photographs from the memorial's archives will travel across Australia and a digitised version will be available for overseas posts.

Large stone lions that once stood at the Menin Gates in Ypres, Belgium - through which all 12,000 Australian soldiers who died in the mud of the Ypres salient once marched - will make another journey. They were given to Australia in 1935 by the city of Ypres and have stood at the memorial in Canberra since. In 2017, they will be flown back to Ypres for a year.



## **ART WORLD STUNNED: SECOND 'MONA LISA' APPEARS TO BE AUTHENTIC**



August 3, 2014 in [Art](#), [artist](#), [Painting](#), [People](#)

Last year, art experts claimed that [Leonardo da Vinci](#) completed a version of the [Mona Lisa](#) some ten years prior to that of the famous Mona Lisa painting which hangs in the Louvre in Paris. The original Mona Lisa was thought to be the only portrait of Lisa Gherardini (aka Lisa del Giocondo) ever created by the artist.

The painting in question, dubbed the Isleworth Mona Lisa, is slightly larger than the famous portrait and has been the subject of debate as to its authenticity, but new revelations may finally end the debate that has continued since the painting's discovery a century ago. According to the [Guardian](#), "New tests on a painting billed as the original version of the Mona Lisa have produced fresh proof that it is the work of Leonardo, a Swiss-based art foundation has said."

The tests were conducted at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology by a specialist in "sacred geometry." Italian geometrist Alfonso Rubino, who had previously made extended studies of the geometry of Leonardo's Vitruvian Man [a sketch of a youth with arms and legs extended] after studying the reported copy concluded that the Isleworth portrait "matched Leonardo's geometry and must be his."

David Feldman, vice-president of the Mona Lisa Foundation said, "When we add these new findings to the wealth of scientific and physical studies we already have, I believe anyone will find the evidence of a Leonardo attribution overwhelming."

**NEWSLETTER OF THE  
MALTESE DIASPORA**

PROMOTING THE  
MALTESE HISTORY, CULTURE  
AND HERITAGE

Issue No: **53**



## ENDURING LOVE:



The happy couple: Prince Phillip, the Duke of Edinburgh, and Queen Elizabeth on their honeymoon in 1947

Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh appear still very much in love at Broadlands earlier this year



Time abroad: When Philip was posted to Malta as a naval officer from 1949 to 1951, the Queen spent several months by his side, staying at the Villa Guardamangia pictured here in 1950



## LAKE MALTA (MALTAŃSKI RESERVOIR) IN POLAND



Of Poznań's many lakes it's Malta - to the east - that is the best known, and its surroundings are well worth further investigation. Formed in 1952 as a result of damming the Cybina, this 2.2km long lake is the largest man-made lake in the city, with an average depth of 3.1 metres. Surrounded by parks and woodland, it is today one of the principal recreation areas in the region - in both summer and winter - with an ice-rink, ski slope (the first in former communist Europe), a world-class regatta course, zoo, water park, and dozens of other attractions, including several historical sights. Just east of the centre,

but miles from the madness of the market square, if you're in town to decompress, head to Malta.

### History

What you see before you wasn't always a lake, more of a river running by Poznań. In 1178 Prince Mieszko invited representatives of the Knights Hospitaller to the region, and they in turn built **St. John of Jerusalem Church** - now regarded as the oldest brick place of worship in the country. By 1530 the West European branch of the Knights had resettled on Malta, and so their order found itself renamed **The Knights of Malta**. The chaps who had come to Poland followed suit, and soon the locals were also referring to the area they decamped to as '**Malta**.'

For the next few hundred years Malta went largely unnoticed, and it was only in the 19th century that the people of Poznań suddenly realised they had a great place to head for a weekend stroll, or wobble around on a newfangled contraption called a bicycle. Adding to Malta's appeal was its dense greenery and relative isolation from prying eyes, making it popular with frisky couples. After WWI numerous ideas for Malta came to the fore, but all eventually hit a wall with the exception of Adam Ballenstaedt's 'Freedom Mound.' Not ones to faff around and wait for planning permission it was the Nazis who actually changed Malta to the Malta we know today. It was on their initiation that thousands of slave workers were drafted in and began damming the river to create a lake, and while they never saw their plans realised, the communist, who took over, did. The job was finished in 1952, and the results you can see for yourself.

Between 1980 and 1989 the lake was completely drained, and the surrounding area given a facilities facelift in time for the World Canoeing Championship in 1990. Today it's still regarded as a top-quality course, as proved by the decision to hold the 2009 World Rowing Championships here. An enormously popular leisure destination for people throughout the region, new attractions and facilities are constantly being added as the area's allure continues to grow



## CARDINAL PELL'S HOMILY TO THE ORDER OF MALTA

*It is a privilege to be able to offer here, for the spiritual advancement of our readers, the Homily delivered to members of the Order of Malta by Cardinal Pell in Saint Mary's Cathedral Sydney, upon the feast of Corpus Christi.*



### **Homily by George Cardinal Pell**

*Archbishop of Sydney*

*Bailiff Grand Cross of Honor and Devotion*

*and Conventual Chaplain ad honorem*

*Sovereign Military Order of Malta*

ON THIS FEAST OF CORPUS CHRISTI it is appropriate that we welcome here the Knights and Dames of the Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem gathered from across Australia for their biennial meeting. Both the feast and the Order come from the Middle Ages. We know them as the Knights of Malta, but at an earlier stage for two hundred years they were known as the Knights of Rhodes, until their honourable defeat there by Sultan Suleiman II in 1522.

We know that Christ celebrated the first Eucharist on Holy Thursday the night before he died and that many of his followers had left him earlier when he promised to give them his flesh to eat. We have clear evidence from the Scriptures and the Church writings of the Fathers of the first Christians' belief that Christ was truly present in the Eucharist.

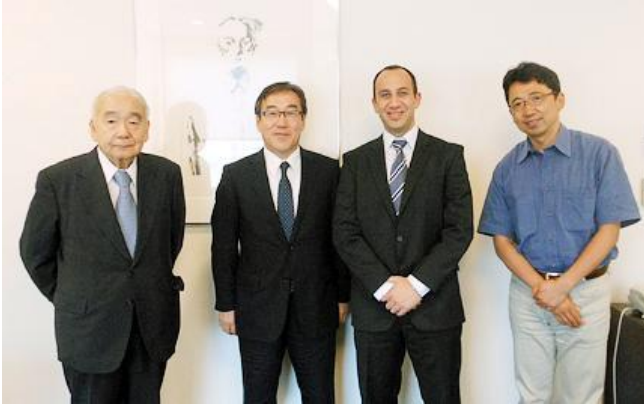
But this feast on the earliest free Thursday after Easter to celebrate the institution of the Eucharist only developed around 1230 in Liège under the influence of Blessed Juliana a devout nun. In other words this feast is a medieval development used to oppose those, like the eleventh century Berengar of Tours, who denied Jesus was really present in the Eucharist.

The Order of Malta will celebrate the 900th anniversary of its approval as a religious order by Pope Paschal II in 1113. It was then a low point in papal history with a number of anti-popes, a weak papacy in confrontation with the Holy Roman Emperor and one of the few bright spots had been the recapture of Jerusalem by the First Crusade in 1099 after Muslim rule since 638.

## MALTA AND JAPAN

H.E. Mr. Andre Spiteri, Ambassador of the Republic of Malta to Japan

Professor Rei Shiratori, Honorary Consul-General of Malta



H.E. Mr. Andre Spiteri, Ambassador of the Republic of Malta to Japan (*second from right*) and Professor Rei Shiratori, Honorary Consul-General of Malta (*left*) paid a courtesy call on Eiji Taguchi, the Vice President of the Japan Foundation (*second from left*). They exchanged information and their view on international cultural exchanges between the two countries.

[Junior Group from Japan](#)

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## STUDYING IN MALTA



By [EC Malta Intern, Haruna](#)

During my internship at EC Malta I had the opportunity to meet with the **Japanese Junior students from Kindai**. This was my first intern experience. The students went to St. Martins College (EC's sister school) with other Maltese students. It was so interesting for them joining various lessons such as **History, Physical Education, Art etc...** The first few days were hard, as they couldn't understand much English, however within no time, they made friends and there were loads of smiles. It was a great experience for me and this made me very happy. We went to

a lot of places together such as the **Blue Grotto** where we saw the clear blue sea and the colorful corals. Everything is so different from our country, the students truly enjoyed it – we had a wonderful time! On the 21st of March we went to the “**Good Friday Procession**”. It was first time for them studying about Easter traditions and customs. One of the students exclaimed: “I didn't know before about Malta. Here is wonderful. I was stupid.” And another student said: “I don't want to go back to Japan. I want to stay more.” Unfortunately, we soon had to say good-bye, however, I can gladly say that after this joyful experience, both the students, and myself could speak better English!



Photo - DOI - Clodagh Farrugia O'Neill

## **MINISTER GEORGE VELLA MEETS JAPANESE AMBASSADOR.**

Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr George Vella met Japanese Ambassador HE Mr Kohno at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Valletta. During the meeting Foreign Minister Vella noted that a very healthy trade exchange existed between the two countries with Malta's export of tuna consisting of a significant proportion of the trade flow.

Ambassador Kohno countered by stating that it was his understanding that 20% of all Japanese tuna imports originated from Malta. The meeting noted the excellent state of Malta-Japan relations and the presence of the Japanese community in Malta.

## **AUSTRALIAN/MALTESE PROFILE**



### **Dr Francis Parnis MBBS, FRACP Medical Oncologist**

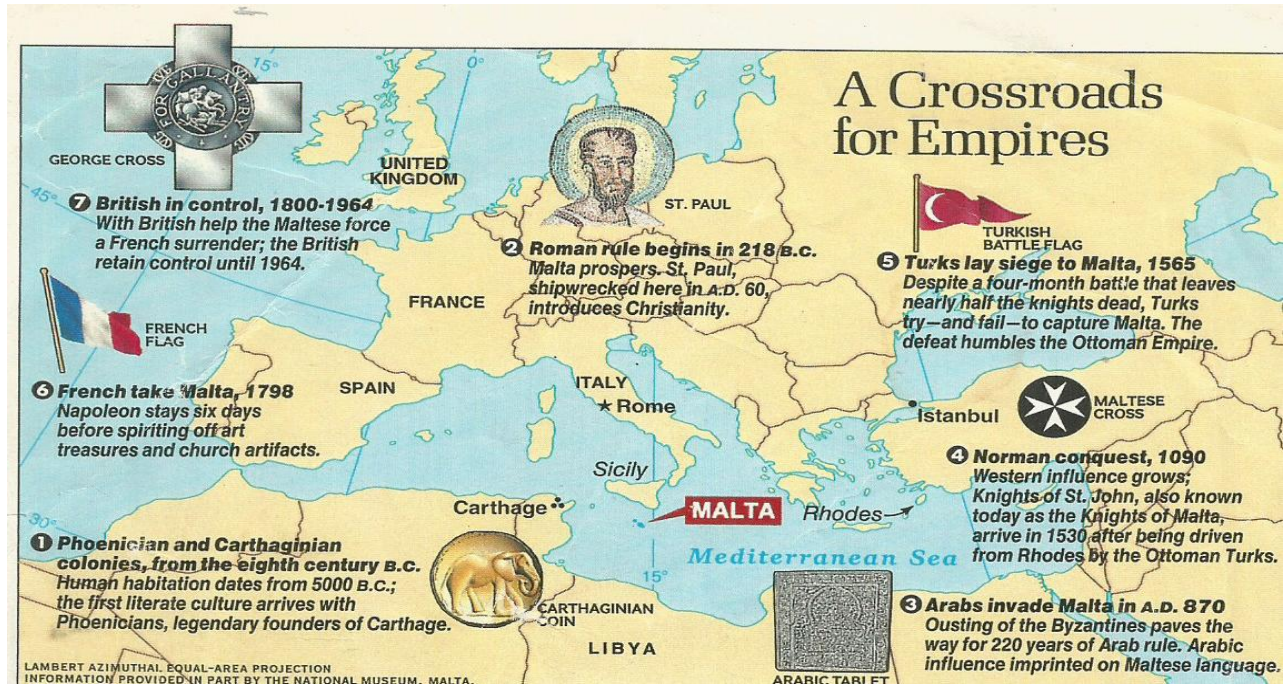
Dr Francis Parnis undertook his medical training at the University of Adelaide and graduated in 1985.

He has practiced as a Medical Oncologist at the Queen Elizabeth, Flinders Medical Centre, Royal Adelaide, Queen Mary's Hospital Kent and Guys Hospital in London.

He co-founded the Adelaide Cancer Centre with his colleague, Dr Dusan Kotasek in March 1995; a centre that has now grown into the largest private oncology facility in South Australia. Dr Parnis is a founding member and former director of the Private Cancer Physicians of Australia and he is a Visiting Medical Oncologist with Icon Cancer Care Adelaide.

Dr Parnis' clinical interests include prostate cancer, all GI and GU malignancies, breast cancer, lung cancers and mesothelioma. Dr. Parnis is a Knight of Malta.





## MALTA THROUGHOUT THE CENTURIES

### Ryanair celebrates carrying 5 million passengers to and from Malta

Times of Malta *Thursday, August 7, 2014,*



Tourism Minister Edward Zammit Louis said that Ryanair's Malta results were impressive, with Malta increasing its tourism volume.

"By tapping into the growing low cost airline segment route expansion has been encouraged. This facilitated a link from Malta to Krakow for the first time, Kaunas and other cities, which improved both the connectivity and the accessibility to our islands especially in winter.

"We encouraged route expansion in a way which opened up new markets and limited overlaps to a bare minimum. We expanded our route network in a feasible manner, in a way which also channeled growth into the off-peak months and at the same time ensuring and safeguarding the sustainability of our national carrier Air Malta," he said.

Ryanair today celebrated carrying 5,000,000 passenger at Malta Airport.

The airline, which began operating at Malta in 2006 with two routes to and from London Luton and Pisa, today offers 28 destinations across 11 markets.

The airline said it was celebrating this milestone by releasing 100,000 seats for sale across its European network, at prices from €19.99 for travel in August, September and October. The low fare seats are available for booking until Monday at midnight.

## OLD COIN SHOWS EARLY CHINESE CONTACT WITH ABORIGINAL PEOPLE IN ELCHO ISLAND NEAR ARNHEM LAND: EXPERT



A coin hundreds of years old found on a remote island off the Northern Territory coastline may be the first evidence of contact in the 1700s between Aboriginal people and traders in China, a heritage expert has said.

The brass coin has been identified as coming from the Qing Dynasty and was minted between 1736 and 1795. It was found on July 25 during a week-long expedition to Elcho Island by a group of heritage enthusiasts who call themselves the Past Masters.

"It certainly shows the contact between Northern Australia and the trade with the Middle Kingdom, with China," said Mike Owen, a member of the group. Mr Owen said this was the first time such an old Chinese coin had been discovered in northern Australia. "It is the only evidence that Chinese merchants may have visited Northern Australia in the context of the trepang trade," Mr Owen said.

Elcho Island is part of the Wessels group off the northeastern tip of Arnhem Land, and came to prominence when 1,000-year-old African coins were found on one of the islands in the 1940s.

How those coins came to be located in such a remote area has not yet been determined. Mr Owen said the Chinese coin was possibly brought to Australia by the Macassan people, who came from Indonesia to trade with Aboriginal people for trepang, also known as sea cucumbers, or from Chinese merchants.

"The [the Macassans] dealt with Chinese agents and they sold trepang down to China," Mr Owen said. After being found by a member of the expedition using a metal detector the coin was photographed and then put back in the sand where it was found. "Aboriginal oral history talks about Chinese merchants coming to Australia and they also speak of using Chinese coins as fishing weights," Mr Owen said.



Comino's Blue Lagoon is filled with thousands of day-trippers on August 3. Photo: Matthew Mirabelli (Times)



## Air India Jumbo picks up evacuated workers from Malta

An Air India Boeing 747 made a rare visit to Malta this morning to pick up 289 Indian workers who were evacuated from Benghazi.



The workers were brought to Malta by a Virtu Ferries catamaran chartered by the Indian government. It also picked up passengers from Misurata.

The vessel entered Grand Harbour in the early hours of this morning. A Maltese oil worker from Libya was also on board.

The Indian workers went straight to the airport for their flight home.

Anil Trigunayat, the Indian ambassador to Libya expressed 'heartfelt thanks' for Malta's assistance. Several hundred Filipino workers are also due to be

evacuated from Libya to Malta in the coming days.

## . GBEJNIET

# Say Cheese!

Gbejniet is a classic Maltese cheese, made from either goat's or sheep's milk. The finished cheese is circular in shape with a flat top and bottom to it, you'll find it is served with pepper in restaurants, and is great gift to take home to friends and relatives. It's also great on pizza thanks to its similarity to mozzarella but with a more nutty taste, which is why it's often added to pasta or soup dishes.





**SENT BY THE CHRALES GATT – MALTA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION – MELBOURNE**

This is just a quick notice that there will be **no lecture in the third week of this month**, due to The MHA Special Event held on 5th August. Similarly the next newsletter will not come out until early September. Our next talk will be given by George Portelli on Tuesday 16 September.

The special event, *From Craft, to Industry, to Art*, given by Dr Consiglia Azzopardi was well attended. She gave us a fascinating history of the development of lace-making. Following this, Mary Farrugia, who teaches lace making in St Albans, gave a brief demonstration of the process and we were treated to a display of various pieces of lace, some over a hundred years old. We thank Agnes Cauchi for the following summary of Dr Azzopardi's talk. The pictures are from Dr Azzopardi's PowerPoint.

**History of lace-making in Malta – summary by Agnes Cauchi**

Since the 16<sup>th</sup> century, lace or 'bizzilla' featured as a craft, then as an industry, and finally an art. Back in 1619, Gozitan women were altering cloths bordered with lace. They were also trying to retrieve old pieces from abroad!

How did these arrive in Malta? There was a trade going on between Malta and Spain, Flanders, France, the Netherlands and Italy. Malta was also exporting lace to these countries.



Students at Casa Industriale –Xagħra. Note the pillows.

it remained till 1960.

In 1861, the Maltese exhibited a piece of Maltese lace at the London Lace Exhibition and it took first prize. After that, lace was exported to England. However, it had to compete with lace from other countries. Foreigners started copying the design and making lace by machines, so the Maltese Cross was introduced in every piece of lace to show that it is genuinely Maltese.

Maltese Lace became so sought after, that when Princess Elizabeth became queen, the English ladies living in Malta gave the new queen a lace present – a 22 foot runner and 60 matching place mats. The people of Gozo also donated a table cloth to the queen.

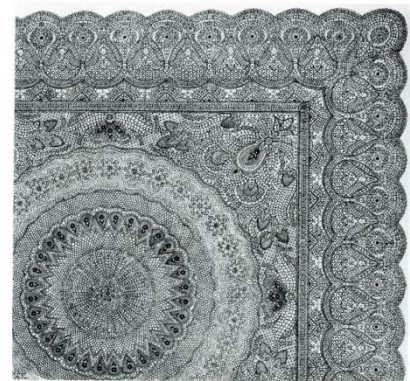
Now, at the University of Malta, Gozo campus, lace has become an art. Apart from lace-making classes the student lace workers are restoring old lace pieces, and studying styles of old shawls.



Detail from an 18<sup>th</sup> Century painting by Antoine Favray showing lace work similar to the modern style.

What is Maltese lace, as opposed to lace from Belgium, Spain, etc? It simply means that the technique is different to other 'laces'. The pillow is different, the Maltese pillow is cigar shaped or 'trajbu', whereas in the other countries, the pillow was round, called 'tombolo'. The bobbin method was developed in Gozo and designs were drawn by Gozitan artists.

In the 19th century, lace became an industry. In 1888, Dun Giuseppe Diacono, who was the parish priest of Xagħra, Gozo, opened the first school of lace making, called 'Casa Industriale – Xagħra'. It eventually moved to Racecourse Street, Vittoria, where



Part of the piece of lace that won first prize in the Great London Exhibition of 1861

## MALTA GRAND HARBOUR CIRCA 1910

A large variety of vessels visit or have visited the Grand Harbour in Malta. While Malta was a British colony the Royal Navy had a substantial fleet in the Mediterranean and the Grand Harbour was home to many of them, as the following photograph (circa 1910) of Dockyard Creek (to the West of Fort St Angelo) shows.



The following photograph taken at the same time shows the harbour to the east of Fort St Angelo with other Royal Navy warships at anchor. The warship anchored just off Bighi point, outside Kalkara creek, and with white markings on the first and fourth funnel is the armoured cruiser Black Prince which was subsequently sunk by the Germans at the Battle of Jutland in 1916.



*Souce - Malta: Nurse of the Mediterranean - Author Frank L Scicluna*



## Sturt's Desert Pea **Floral Emblem of South Australia**

Sturt's Desert Pea, *Swainsona formosa*, was adopted as the floral emblem of South Australia on 23 November 1961, using the name *Clianthus formosus*.



This species, a member of the pea family, Fabaceae, is confined to Australia, where it occurs in all mainland States except Victoria. The original collection was made in 1699 by William Dampier on Rosemary Island in the Dampier Archipelago where he collected a specimen from: "a creeping vine that runs along the ground ... and the blossom like a bean blossom, but much larger and of a deep red colour looking very beautiful".

This specimen is now housed in the Sherardian Herbarium, Oxford. The species was for many years included in the genus *Clianthus* now thought to be confined to New Zealand.

Captain Charles Sturt (1795-1869) noted the occurrence of *Swainsona formosa* in 1844 while exploring between Adelaide and central Australia, and the common name, Sturt's Desert Pea, commemorates a notable explorer of inland Australia, as well as indicating the plant's habitat and family. Sturt's journal, *Narrative of an Expedition into Central Australia*, refers several

times to the beauty of the desert pea in flower and the harsh nature of its habitat, and notes that beyond the Darling River:

"we saw that beautiful flower the *Clianthus formosa* [sic] in splendid blossom on the plains. It was growing amid barrenness and decay, but its long runners were covered with flowers that gave a crimson tint to the ground".

The genus name *Swainsona* honours Isaac Swainson who maintained a private botanic garden at Twickenham near London about the year 1789. The specific name *formosa* is Latin for 'beautiful'. The original author of the species was the Scottish botanist, George Don (1798-1856).

In its natural habitat Sturt's Desert Pea is a perennial plant with silky grey-green pinnate foliage arising from prostrate stems. The leaves and stems are covered with downy hairs. The flowers are about 9 cm long and arranged in clusters of six to eight on short, thick, erect stalks. The petals are usually blood red or scarlet with a glossy black swelling or 'boss' at the base of the uppermost petal, the standard. Other colour forms range from white to deep pink, either with or without a black boss, and rarely a bicoloured form, in which the standard is scarlet and the other petals, the wings and keel, are white tipped and edged with scarlet. The fruit is a legume about 5 cm long which splits at maturity releasing several flat kidney-shaped seeds.

Sturt's Desert Pea occurs in arid woodlands and on open plains, often as an ephemeral following heavy rain. It is able to withstand the marked extremes of temperature experienced in inland deserts, and light frosts are tolerated by established plants. Sturt's Desert Pea is protected in South Australia. The flowers and plants must not be collected on private land without the written consent of the owner.



## MEET AUSTRALIA'S BIGGEST FAMILY – THE BONNELLS



Caitlin Bonell has been born into one of Australia's most unique families.

There will be no shortage of someone to play with as the newborn arrives home to meet her new 15 brothers and sisters, ranging from two years old to 24 years old.

"You very much know that you want to be a supersized family I guess, you don't get to here by accident," mother Jeni Bonell said. The family has traded their car in for a bus and dinner is a tight production line.

The cost of raising two Australian children to age 21 years old is approximately \$800,000. The cost of raising 16 children is close to \$6.5 million.

"We live quite simply and very frugally. We're careful with our budget," Jeni said. Australia's biggest family, the Bonell family, has welcomed one more addition. The biggest cost for the Bonell family is the weekly food shop, which usually costs between \$600 and \$800.

The family will annually consume 1648 litres of milk, 960 loaves of bread and on average they will celebrate a birthday every three weeks. However, despite the regular birthdays, it can be a struggle to keep track of everyone. "What is there? Nine boys, seven girls... I've lost count," Dad said.

**THAT'S ENOUGH FOR TODAY – IF YOU HAVE ENJOYED  
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CIAW**