

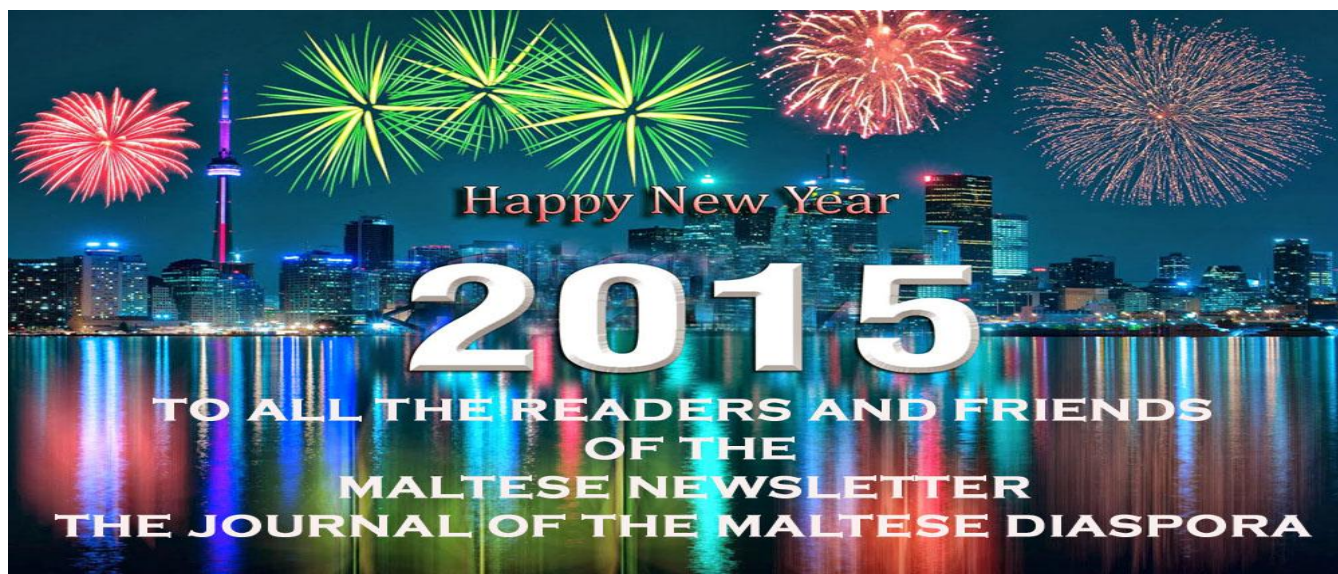


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CONSULATE OF MALTA IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA NEWSLETTER

FRANK L SCICLUNA - LINKING MALTA AND AUSTRALIA

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



MESSAGE FROM THE HON JAY WEATHERILL MP PREMIER OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

To the Maltese Community of South Australia

The Christmas season is the time to enjoy the company of family and friends.

It also a time of reflection and the recent events in Sydney remind us that in life there is uncertainty. Some South Australian families face uncertainty every day. That is why, this year instead of sending Christmas cards I will be donating to HeartKids SA. HeartKids SA is a special charity that focusses on childhood heart disease, one of the greatest causes of infant death in Australia. I hope the New Year brings renewed hope, energy and success and I look forward to working with

you again next year.

YOU MAY WATCH TELEVISION DIRECT FROM MALTA ON <http://delicast.com/tv/Malta>
YOU MAY READ THE MALTESE NEWSPAPERS DAILY ON <http://www.onlinenewspapers.com/malta.htm>



Kummissjoni Gholja ta'Malta

High Commission for Malta

The High Commissioner Presents His Credentials to the Governor General of New Zealand



L-R Mr. Richard Niven; Mrs. Victoria Muscat; Gov. Gen. Jerry Mateparae; High Commissioner Charles Muscat; Hon. Paul Goldsmith; Dr. Carmen Dalli

The High Commissioner, H.E. Charles Muscat, presented his credentials on 3 December 2014 to His Excellency Lt Gen Right Hon Sir Jerry Mateparae GNZM, QSO, Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of New Zealand in ceremonies held at the Government House in Wellington, New Zealand. The presentation accredits H.E. Mr. Charles Muscat as the non-resident High Commissioner of the Republic of Malta to New Zealand.

The High Commissioner and Mrs. Victoria Muscat were welcomed upon arrival at the Government House with the traditional Maori ceremonial challenge called the *wero*. This was followed by the general salute and the inspection of the guard, contingent of the New Zealand Air Force. The Honorary Consul of Malta in Wellington, Dr. Carmen Dalli, accompanied by her spouse, Mr. Richard Niven, was also in attendance.

Speeches were exchanged between High Commissioner Muscat and Governor General Mateparae, highlighting the excellent relations existing between the Republic of Malta and New Zealand. The Ceremony was concluded with drinks being served and photographs taken.

The High Commissioner and Mrs. Muscat, with the other newly accredited Heads of Mission and their accompanying partners, joined the Governor General for lunch at the Norrie State Dining Room attended also by Hon Paul Goldsmith, Minister of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Associate Minister for ACC, the Household staff, and officials. The luncheon was concluded with a toast to HM the Queen of New Zealand.

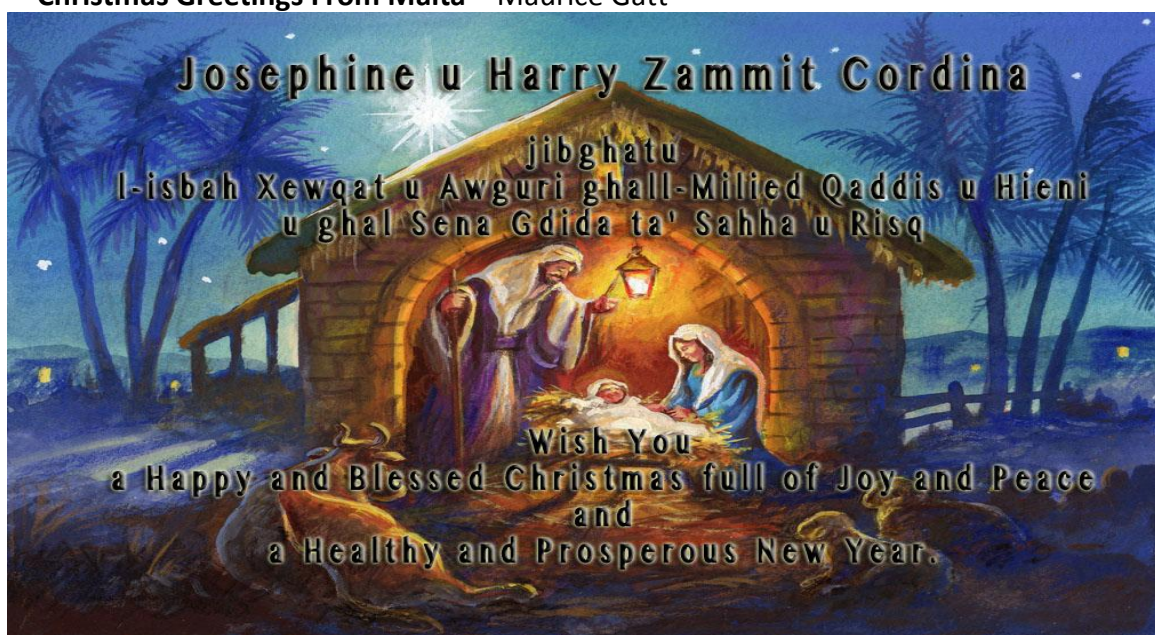
While in Wellington, the High Commissioner also called on the Dean of the Diplomatic Corp and Canadian High Commissioner, H.E. Caroline Chretien, the Head of the EU Delegation, CDA Michalis Rokas, and officials of the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Honorary Consul, Dr. Carmen Dalli, Mr. Richard Niven and Maltese Community in Wellington welcomed the High Commissioner and Mrs. Muscat with a reception that would remind one of the hospitality Malta is known for.



- Dear Hon Consul, A heartfelt **"thank you"** for the Christmas Greetings and the Wishes for the New Year 2015r. Thank you also for the magnificent Newsletter - Bartolo Antonio
- Peace be with you. Thank you so much for the Maltese Newsletter. It is so interesting. I read it all.
- I am stationed in Melbourne, however I am on supply work in Peru for some months.
God bless you. You are in my prayers. FR Emm. Adami Henry Navarro
- Thank you Frank and a very Happy Xmas and a Happy new year lots of love Henry and Henry and Carmen Navarro United Kingdom
- Reciprocate best wishes to all the Maltese Community in South Australia.
Dr Consiglia Azzopardi Maltese Lace
- Frank I reciprocate your Christmas greetings Charles Mifsud (NSW Australia)
- Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year. Dr Karen Chetcuti (Melbourne Australia)
- A friend forwarded to me your news letter can you please add me to your mailing list Regards Freda Micallef
- Thanks for another wonderful issue of the Maltese Newsletter. GRAZZI u XEWQAT SBIEH!! Jimmy Borg
- Nispera li jkollok Milied tajjeb u hieni. God Bless. Cheers\ Vince Bezzina
- Thanking you for the Maltese Newsletter, which I read with interest, I returned to Malta five months ago and I share it with others. I reciprocate Christmas and New Year greetings to yourself and staff, through the attachment Sister Cecilia
- Hi Frank Grazzi u prosi! Your News Letter is full of interesting information about the Maltese back home or here and abroad. I really, like the way you try to integrate our community into the Australian community while keep our identity. Look forward for your News Letter in the coming year. All the best for a Happy Xmas & a prosperous 2015. Kind regards Joe Borg Melbourne Australia
- Lilek ukoll Frank. Lill-familja kollha u lill-ħbieb kollha tagħkom. Sena mimilja saħħa, hena u ġid! saħħa u tislijiet Paul P. Borg
- Wishing you and your family the many blessings of a Joyous Christmas. May the New Year 2015 bring you Serenity, Harmony and Prosperity. May God Bless You ALL With Love, Antoinette, Joe & Bajada family
- "lil-Mmilied it-tajjeb – qaddis - hena - paci – sliem - u – sena - gdida ta' saħħa - hena u risq - fuq kollox bil-barka t'alla." Maria Catania, Australia
- MESSAGE FROM FR BORG – CUBA Finally I succeeded to download the Special Christmas Edition of the Maltese Newsletter. It's excellent. I would like to seize this occasion to wish to you personally, to your family and to our beloved Maltese communities of Australia a very Merry Christmas and a New Year full of divine grace and blessings. I send these Christmas greetings in a moment in which Australia is weeping for her victims of terrorism. But as the archbishop of Sydney said in his homily the coming Christian feast of Christmas should remind us that only true love and forgiveness are the only authentic means to overcome hatred, violence and terrorism. May the Child of Bethlehem fill our hearts with true love so as we can live and work for peace, striving to ameliorate the condition of the poor. May the coming liturgical and social festivities be for each one of us a marvelous occasion to renew our Christian faith and our social commitment. Best regards to all. Fr. Lucian Borg OSA La Habana Cuba
- XEWQAT MINGHAND ENZO GUZMASN lilek u lill-qarrejja kollha Sena Gdida mimilja risq, hena u paci.
- I am one of the silent majority. I receive your informative newsletter regularly and pass it on to more than 10 of my family members and friends. Sorry I never wrote to you before. Peter Gauci, Australia

- Yes I would like to send a donation to help with publication of your book. I think that such an important part of Maltese/Australian history should be recorded. And thanks again for the Newsletter! It is always full of so much information. Il-Milied it-Tajjeb! Sahniet Georgina Scillio VIC AUST.
- Dear Frank, Thanks and well done for the Maltese Newsletter. Congratulations for your very good work. I wish every joy and blessing for Christmas and the New Year 2015. I will be very happy to continue receive your wonderful newsletter.
- My best wishes to you and your loved ones. May you have a Happy Christmas and a New Year filled with all that your hearts long for. Keep well, Dolores Cristina.
- Josephine and Harry Zammit Cordina (Hamrun, Malta) and Father Gabnriel Micallef OFM, Adelaiden Australia Sent their Christmas and New Year's
- Prof Henry Frendo (Malta) Keep up the good work Frank. It is heart-warming to see the past live on, sometimes more so overseas than locally. Downloading this for my migration class! Milied hieni u sena tajba lil kulhadd. Henry Frendo
- To our families and all our friends, we send our warmest greetings for Christmas and the New Year Alfred nd Jasmine Grech (Malta)
- The best kind of love is the kind awakens the soul and makes us reach for more that plants fire in our hearts and brings peace to our minds...Merry Christmas to you and your beautiful family.
With kind regards Alfred Borg ANTICFILMS
- TISLIJET LIL KULHADD MINGHAND PAUL U SALVINA VELLA – Melbourne Victoria
- I wish to keep receiving The Maltese Newsletter in the future, keep up the good work At this time I would like to wish you and your Family and friends a wonderful Xmas and a happy and healthy new year 2015
Regards Spiro Galea
- Yes please keep sending me your wonderful news letter. I love reading it very much and I like how you cover so many stories. It is a very good read, please keep up the good work. When I read your letter I save it and then I send it to my boys who were born in Australia and they love reading it. I wish you and all your loved ones A Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year. Regards, Henry Berry (SAHHA)
- Bset wishes for the season's festivities – Lino and Rita, NSW Australia
- My family and I would like to send you and all Maltese living in Australia our regards, thanks and a MERRY CHRISTMAS and the year 2015 full of health, happiness, love and peace of mind. Thanks for the wonderful news and other information which are so pleasant to read.XX Godfrey Magri.
- **Christmas Greetings From Malta – Maurice Gatt**



First heart op on soldier was performed in Malta in WWI



A century after the start of the First World War a researcher has established that the first heart operation to be performed on a soldier was carried out at Fort St Elmo in Malta.

Dr. Norman Briffa, a Maltese consultant cardiac surgeon, established that the event took place after he was given information during a talk in September 2011 at Sheffield theatre company. One of his listeners, Sheila Hobson, questioned his assertion that wounded soldiers had not had heart surgery until the Second World War.

She said that her great uncle, Trooper Robert Martin, had undergone and survived major heart surgery during the First World War after being wounded. Mr Briffa told Mrs Hobson that he “respectfully doubted” her claims but asked her to supply details so that he could investigate. Sure enough, after extensive inquiries, he managed to unearth documents written at the time that proved that Mrs Hobson’s claims were accurate and, in her words, medical history “will have to be rewritten”. Meanwhile, Mr Briffa was so touched by his discoveries about Trooper Martin that he has paid his respects to the heart patient he never knew by visiting his overseas grave. Robert Hugh Martin was shot in the chest during the Salonika Campaign, in what is now Thessalonika, Greece on November 14, 1917 – his 21st birthday. He was transferred to Malta then known as the Nurse of the Mediterranean. Treatment was limited at the time and underwent complex heart surgery in early 1918, after medical experts concluded that without such treatment he would die.

THE ABOVE ARTICLE IS TAKEN FROM THE NEW BOOK:
MALTA AND THE ANZACS – THE NURSE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN by Frank Scicluna
COMMEMORATING THE ANZAC CENTENARY 1915 - 2015
Reserve a copy (limited Edition) – email – honconsul@live.com.au

Cospicua Church And Memorial Malta



MALTESE CASUALTIES DURING WORLD WAR II

When Benito Mussolini, the Fascist Dictator of Italy, announced his decision to ally Italy with Germany and issued the declaration of war at 6 p.m. on 10th June 1940, the island of Malta was thrust into the front line of the Second World War. The first air raid on Malta by the Italian Regia Aeronautica took place at 06.25 the next morning.

Until 16th January 1941 all the air attacks were made by the Italian Regia Aeronautica, but that day the German Luftwaffe carried out its first attack on Malta and continued to do so.

Since the first air raid alert on 11th June 1940 until the last one on 28th August 1944, there were 3,340 alerts totalling 2357 hours. However, the peak period was the first half of 1942 with 263 alerts in January, 236 in February, 275 in March, 282 in April, 246 in May and 169 in June. The last air raid alert was sounded on 28th August 1944, but since October 1943 there had only been eight alerts.



By April 1942 the number of houses destroyed or damaged were estimated as, 85% in Floriana, 80% in Senglea, 75% in Kirkop, 75% in Valletta, 70% in Luqa, 70% in Cospicua, 70% Kalkara, 65% Vittoriosa, and 60% Gzira. Most inhabitants of these areas therefore had to find accommodation in the villages and towns elsewhere on the island.

From 11th June 1940 until 31st December 1943 the civilian casualties were: Killed outright 1190: Died of their wounds 296: Missing presumed dead 54: Seriously injured 1846: Slightly injured 1932. Of the 1540 dead, 703 were Men, 433 were Women and 404 were Children.



On 15th April 1942 His Majesty King George VI sent a message to Governor Dobbie which read: **"To honour her brave people I award the George Cross to the Island Fortress of Malta to bear witness to a heroism and devotion that will long be famous in history."**, (sgd) George R.I.

However, due to the continual air raids and security situation on the island a public ceremony could not be held until Sunday 13th September 1942, when Governor Gort VC who had replaced Governor Dobbie made the presentation in Palace Square. The George Cross was handed over to Sir George Borg, the Chief Justice of Malta. After being on display in Valletta the award was taken around Malta. It was on show for a day in most of the towns and villages so that everyone had the opportunity to see it. King George VI himself paid a brief visit to the island on 20th June 1943. He arrived on board HMS *Aurora* in Grand Harbour just after eight o'clock in the morning. He went to the Naval Dockyard and Senglea, before being taken on a tour to show him the devastation inflicted by the air raids on other towns and villages. He also visited the Royal Air Force airfields before re-embarking on HMS *Aurora* that night.

Poor Clares nuns preparing to celebrate their centenary

The Poor Clares came to Malta at the beginning of World War I. Four French sisters were expelled from Nazareth in 1914 and arrived in Malta in December of the same year. At first they were offered temporary shelter at the Convent of the Missionary Sisters of Egypt in Zabbar.

The Maltese people welcomed them and provided all necessities. Their first Christmas here was an exemplary story of the generous heart of the Maltese. They offered the nuns all they needed to celebrate the nativity in a happy atmosphere.



At the end of WWI the four nuns remained in Malta to set up the Maltese order of the Poor Clares. They moved to a small house in St Julian's until a monastery could be built. In their new home a pious lady gave them a statue of the holy infant of Prague as a gift, which they accepted. The nuns' wish to be allocated a plot of land for their monastery came true a few days after they received the statue. Thanks to well-known benefactor Alfons Maria Galea, a plot of land was acquired and a monastery with an adjoining chapel was built.



The life of the Poor Clares is centred on silent prayer, but the 25 cloister nuns at the monastery in St Julian's are not as cut off from the outside world as it would appear. As they mark their centenary this year, the nuns have their own Facebook page, blog and website and their door is always open to anyone who needs moral support.

"We are always open to anyone, and don't send away anybody – we try to listen, accompany and be compassionate. We are not specialised in counselling but we pass on God's word, which provides happiness and relief and helps people get on with their life journey," Sr Rose Therese Ellis, 66, told The Sunday Times of Malta. We are always open to anyone, and don't send away anybody

"We are very keen on keeping ourselves updated with what is going on around the globe. Despite being in a cloister, our cloister is accessible – we carry the world in our hearts. By depriving ourselves from building our own a family, we dedicate our lives to the community," the mother superior, who has been at the monastery for the past 46 years, added.

Officially called the Order of Saint Clare, Il-Klarissi were the second Franciscan Order to be established, after the Order of Friars Minor. The Poor Clare sisters grow their own fruit and vegetables. It was founded by saints Clare of Assisi and Francis of Assisi in 1212 and the Poor Clares arrived in Malta at the beginning of World War One and moved in the monastery where they remained to date in 1935. As they mark 100 years in Malta, their community is made up of 26 nuns – the youngest aged 33 and the eldest 82. Another three young women are spending some time with them to see whether the Klarissi life is for them.

Just like a family, each has her own role within the monastery: someone cooks, someone sews, another does the gardening, someone plays the zither, another of the women replies to Facebook messages and e-mails. Asked whether they had noticed any decrease in vocations, Sr Ellis said the Klarissi life was still appealing. The Klarissi have even branched out and have a new house with four sisters in Victoria, Gozo.

Despite sitting on the side of Regional Road, the monastery has a sense of peace and tranquillity, which Sr Ellis said is achieved through prayer. Sr Rose Therese Ellis has been at the St Clare Monastery for the past 46 years. Their life is simple and they depend on charity. They wake up at 5.15am and start saying vespers, joyful singing and prayers at 6am. The day, which includes recreational time and group meetings, ends around 9.30pm.

Since the sisters live in a cloister, originally even medical operations used to be held in the monastery, but things have changed since the Second Vatican Council and nowadays they can visit their ill relatives, attend hospital appointments and do the necessary shopping. The sisters will be marking St Clare's Feast tomorrow with Solemn Mass at 6.30pm at the monastery in St Julian's, where they are expecting some 700 people. They can be found on their Facebook page Poor Clare Sisters - Malta: www.facebook.com/pages/Poor-Clare-Sisters-Malta, or online at www.klarissimalta.blogspot.com/ and <http://klarissimalta.com/>



News for migrants, refugees and visitors

Here is the latest news for migrants, refugees and visitors for the month of December from the Australian Government Department of Human Services.

To read complete stories and for more detail, visit the Migrants, refugees and visitors section of the Human Services website – www.humanservices.gov.au



Australian Government
Department of Human Services

MERRY CHRISTMAS and a PROSPEROUS, BLESSED, HAPPY NEW YEAR 2015!

May love, peace and joy be yours as you gather with your loved ones, And to others in need whom God will send your way. May you share yourself without counting the cost, Like what Jesus did on earth. Remember to give Him thanks, For everything we have in life is gift Sent with divine mercy and grace. God bless.

Dr. Reynaldo Dante G. Juanta, OAM Mrs. Corazon de los Reyes Juanta Adelaide, South Australia

Malta country brief – Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

The 2011 Census recorded 163,988 **Australians** claiming **Maltese** ancestry and 43,700 **Australian** Malta-born residents – the largest **Maltese** community outside **MALTA**.

- ☐ A May 1948 assisted-passage migration agreement between Australia and Malta subsidised travel costs for over 63,000 Maltese migrants.Â The peak period of migration to Australia occurred in the 1950s and 1960s and the number Australians born in Malta peaked in 1981.Â Since then, the Malta-born population in Australia has been declining and ageing. Â Most of the Malta-born population has lived in Australia for more than 15 years and over 70 per cent have taken up Australian citizenship. Â Victoria and New South Wales have attracted, by far, the largest numbers of Malta-born persons.
 - ☐ Reflecting the relatively large Maltese community in Australia, there have been regular high level visits to Australia by Maltese leaders. Â In March 2011 HE Dr George Abela, President of Malta, visited Australia and met with the Governor-General.Â The Hon Dr Joseph Muscat, then Leader of the Opposition and Leader of the Labour Party, visited Australia from 20-30 May 2010 and met with then Prime Minister Rudd and then Foreign Minister Smith.Â In February 2009, HE Edward Fenech Adami, then President of Malta, visited Australia as a Guest of Government accompanied by the Hon Dr Tonio Borg, then Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs.
 - ☐ Opportunities for Australian exporters and investors exist in areas such as EU-funded infrastructure projects and joint ventures with Maltese partners accessing third country markets in the resources and services sectors.Â Malta also offers potential opportunities for Australian expertise in environmental and water resource management and related equipment for water and energy supply, reticulation and waste management.Â In 2005, the Commonwealth Bank of Australia set up “Commbank Europe Limited” in Malta to facilitate investment, lending and business development into Europe.
 - ☐ The Sydney-based Australian-Maltese Chamber of Commerce (AMCC) and the Melbourne-based Maltese-Australian Business and Professional Association of Victoria (MABPAV), in collaboration with the Australian High Commission in Malta and the Maltese High Commission in Canberra, help to facilitate and promote greater trade and business partnerships between Australia and Malta.
 - **Census reveals characteristics of Maltese speakers in Australia .. Nov 18, 2012 ...** The results of a recent **Australian** census show us the pattern of change within the **Maltese**-speaking community in this large continent.
-
- ☐ Census reveals characteristics of Maltese speakers in Australia
 - ☐ To start with, and to the surprise of many living in Malta, there are still over 34,000 people in Australia who speak Maltese as their main language at home.
 - ☐ The vast majority of Maltese in Australia today were not born in Malta, and do not speak Maltese, and would therefore be excluded from these statistics.
 - ☐

12-YEAR OLD VIOLINIST KURT FALZON Times 19/12/2014



The quivering strains of O Holy Night reverberate through Kurt Falzon's home as the 12-year-old boy studiously practises the Christmas carol, bowing his violin with the confidence of a virtuoso.

However, the young violinist shyly admits he is prone to getting butterflies in his stomach whenever he thinks of performing at Joseph Calleja's Fund Raising Christmas Concert.

Kurt's violin was presented to him in October by the BOV Joseph Calleja Foundation, which got wind of the youngster's promising talent. His mother could not afford to buy him a full-size violin, which carries a price tag of over €1,000 and the instrument was

donated to him by the foundation.

His proud mother, Marcette Sacco, explains that Kurt was born with music inside him. His teacher believed he could manage two instruments – boys are generally rough on pianos but his hands were very gentle

As a one-year-old, he used to go up on tiptoes to run his finger along the little synthesiser the family owned. "He would move in time with the music," Ms Sacco, 50, says.

At the age of five, Kurt started taking piano lessons. It was then that he first started watching DVDs of Dutch violinist André Rieu – and the little boy was captivated. "I used to grab a bottle or a ruler and try to imitate him," Kurt smiles. His mother spoke to his piano teacher, who encouraged her to send him to violin lessons since he had expressed such a keen interest in the instrument. She was told that the violin was a difficult instrument to learn and the younger he took it up, the better.

"His teacher believed he could manage two instruments – boys are generally rough on pianos but his hands were very gentle. So far, he has passed all his examinations with distinction, both in piano and violin practice as well as in musical theory. His next examinations will be the equivalent of an O-level."

Citing the violin as his preferred instrument, Kurt explains that he finds it more of a challenge since he has to calculate where to place his fingers. Twelve-year-old Kurt Falzon rehearsing for next week's concert. Photo: Matthew Mirabelli

At the age of seven, his family fixed him a little surprise. They took him to a restaurant where they knew that musician George Curmi, better known as Il-Pusé, would be playing. Mr Curmi invited him to play along with him and, following a good deal of coaxing, the shy boy mounted the stage and played My Way.

In 2012, he was also asked to play with the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra but three weeks before the concert, Kurt suffered a fall and broke his wrist. As he grew, so did the need for him to have a full-size violin. "I'm separated with two children and could not afford to buy him a full-size violin. Thankfully, the BOV Joseph Calleja Foundation stepped in and supplied him with a lovely violin," Ms Sacco says.

Archaeologists study discovery at Gozo cathedral square



Photo JJP Zammit.

Restoration work in the Citadella has unearthed a curious circular structure of hardstone pebbles set in blue clay.

The structure might have been a fireplace or a burial structure however it is not yet known when it was built or for what. The structure is not a continuous circle as a recent trench for services cuts through it.

The mysterious structure was discovered in the square in front of the Cathedral during EU-funded rehabilitation works on the Citadella. It will be preserved for future access once the site is paved as part of the project.

The discovery was made last week during work on the rehabilitation of the square. The work is continuing but the authorities are considering ways how to preserve the discovery and make it accessible.

NOSTALGIA- 1958



**Television comes to
Gozo!**

**A crowd of people gather
around a TV set in the
centre of Victoria Square,
Rabat to watch the funeral
of
Pope Pius XII
in 1958**

One World - Protecting the most significant buildings, monuments and features of the Maltese islands



Villa Bologna

Villa Bologna located in Triq Sant' Anton Street, Attard was originally constructed by Fabrizio Grech, Grandmaster Pinto's legal adviser as a dowry for his daughter.

The villa was extensively remodelled by Lord Strickland in the 1930s with the use of reinforced concrete which was fashionable at the time. The main building is on two floors with the lower having a groove-jointed panelled façade and embellished by a large, open stone balcony at the front. All windows have decorated pediments with heraldic coat of arms above the main door and above the balcony. There are two large decorative portals on the left and right of the building, each having a banded column on each side,

supporting open balustraded balconies.

The rear of the villa is heavily remodelled with a chevron shaped loggia with its roof forming a large terrace above. At its middle is a large portico which also serves as a terrace for the intermediate level. The large gardens are decorated with ornate works including arches and portals and many statues copied from classical works of art. There are trellised paths, gazebos, wells, gardeners' sheds and a lodge with a crenellated roof at the far end of the garden. The extended gardens were meticulously planned in the fashion of those of Villa Frere' in Pietà by Lord Strickland's second wife.

The property is surrounded by high, crenellated walls with octagonal lookout posts at intervals. The main archway leading into the property has grove jointed pilasters and is surmounted by a decorative pediment. There are two other large arches along the front wall, one with a wooden door while the other is walled up. Both have an elaborate pediment including urn type finials. Mepa scheduled Villa Bologna and surrounding gardens including its boundary wall as a Grade 1 national monument as per Government Notice no. 626/08 in the Government Gazette dated July 18, 2008.



Nostalgia – ARCHBISHOP GONZI IN ADELAIDE AUSTRALIA circa 1950

This photo was supplied by Mr. Joseph Micallef The Late Archbishop Michael Gonzi is seen in this picture with the Micallef and Buhagiar families and friends during his pastoral visit to Adelaide more than half a century ago. Father PeterPaul Meilaq OFM, parish priest of the Franciscan parish of Lockleys is standing next to the archbishop.

TEWMIN

1 Ghandi ohti tixbah lili,
f'kollox kollox bhal xulxin,
u flimkien dejjem issibna
ghaliex jien u hi tewmin.

2 Daqqa nimxu t-tnejn bil-lajma
daqqa nigru t-tnejn mghagglin,
izda nzommu dejjem postna,
jien xellug u hi lemin.

3 Mid-dar nodfa t-tnejn nohorgu
izda nodfa ndumu ftit
ghax it-trab fuq imnehirna
jigi joghqod to' sikwit.

4. Minn twelidna sal-lum bqajna
l-istess daqs u xejn ma kbirna.
Madankollu wiccna tkemmex
Ghax biz-zmien it-tnejn xjuh sirna:

5. Geddu ohti ftit imfattar
Ghaliex qalghet wisq daqqiet
B'xi ballun, biz-zrar u l-gebel
drabi wkoll b'xi bottijiet.

6. Qatt ma norqdu fuq is-sodda
Norqdu tahtha w bir-ragun,
U hemm fl-art xejn ma niddejqu
ghaliex ahna ... par zarbun



Dear Consul,
I was in South
Australia last
July with
OIDFA. May I
thank you for
your greetings
and will
reciprocate by
attaching a card
showing a big
shawl in
Maltese Lace
which I have
just finished
restoring; it will
join my lace
collection in
Gharb, Gozo.
Do come to visit
when you are in
Malta. Best
wishes and best

Regards, Consiglia Azzopardi

Dr Consiglia Azzopardi from Gozo, Malta has been instrumental in the revival of the lace-making craft in the Maltese Islands during these last decades. This was achieved by both researching the history of the traditional craft and by teaching the discovered techniques which have been abandoned as the old generation of lace makers passed away

NEW YEARS'S TRADITIONS IN MALTA

Maltese weather-lore records the tradition that a peasant was grumbling because January had been rainless: *Fie, fie on you, January! You went by with cold but no rain. Leaving me with the sheep in the cave.*

January got angry and borrowed two days from his brother February, proverbially known in Malta as very wet, and in these two days it rained so heavily that the shepherd and his flock were drowned in the cave. A similar motif, transferred to later months is found in other countries such as Sicily, Palestine and Syria. It is also said that on January 25 (Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul) the weather changes seven times, the sun being veiled by scuds of tiny showery clouds.

In the past many people preferred to have fish for lunch on New Year's Day, fish being considered as an augury of good luck. Family members were expected to be present at lunchtime on that day, because it was held that those who absented themselves would die by the end of the same year. Always on the topic of food, he who ate hotchpotch soup on January 1 would grow the ham bones for the rest of the year. Yet another belief warned that those who ate cabbages on New Year's Day would groan for a whole year.

Against this background of old beliefs one can recall the custom whereby a money gift (strina) was given to children, to domestic servants and to others on the first day of the year. Up to World War 2 it was still customary, especially in Maltese and Gozitan villages, for children carrying a small wooden box to go out on the morning of the 1 of January. They visited relatives and friends and stopped passers-by, wishing them all *Is-Sena t-Tajba* (a Happy New Year), at the same time shaking the money in their box - an eloquent sign for the person concerned to give them some money!

By the 18 th century this practice had become deeply rooted in local tradition and it had firmly established itself with an elaborate and colourful ritual. The historian De Soldanis described the 18th century scene in his diary entries for 1734: "Early in the morning the doorsteps everywhere were white with lime thrown by friends as a sign of good wishes, and people wished each other a happy new year. In the morning members of the Order of St. John called on the Grand Master while ladies could call and give their New Year greetings in the evening which was reserved for the purpose. "In like manner the clergy, both lay and regular, called on the Bishop. In the streets children were to be seen asking for strina, which was also given to the grooms of the Grand Master, of the Bishop, and of the Inquisitor as Well as to those in minor employment.

This lasted from the New Year to Epiphany. "In the morning one could also hear the beating of drums and the blast of trumpets; these players set out at about 4 a.m. and they played outside the houses of the Grand Master's officials and some of the Knights Grand Crosses, who then gave them the usual money gift."

The Whirligig of time has not obliterated all these customs. Some of them have survived in transmuted forms. Ministers, officials and others still call at the Palace of the Grand Masters (now the Presidential Palace) - to give New Year greetings to the President of Malta. And in like manner, they and the clergy, both lay and regular, still call on the Archbishop to give their greetings.



NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

"New Year's resolutions are a bit like babies: They're fun to make but extremely difficult to maintain. Each January, roughly one in three AUSTRALIANS resolve to better themselves in some way. A much smaller percentage of people actually make good on those resolutions. While about 75% of people stick to their goals for at least a week, less than half (46%) are still on target six months later, a 2013 study found."

Here is my bucket list

- ❖ I will spend some time per week to learn a language, preferably Maltese although we have no Maltese school in our Territory.
- ❖ I am a Maltese citizen and I will apply for a Maltese passport only if I can get it in my State, which does not have the equipment for a biometric passport. I am not prepared to travel thousands of kilometers to Sydney, Melbourne or Canberra.
- ❖ I will apply for a Maltese citizenship because I am entitled to it but only if it will take less than a year and a half to process my application
- ❖ I will never miss reading this wonderful Newsletter – the Journal of the Maltese Diaspora
- ❖ I will try to eat less “pastizzi” to watch my figure
- ❖ I will watch the Maltese News on SBS2 every Sunday and Thursday at 8.00 am
- ❖ I will travel to Malta regularly to enjoy my beautiful homeland and visit my many relatives who live there
- ❖ I wish that the Maltese living abroad are never ignored or forgotten, after all, we are still Maltese citizens, and we still love Malta even after we left our island 50 years ago, because of economic reasons. It wasn't a holiday or easy to settle in a different country especially in those days. We suffered!!! We cried but we survived.
- ❖ I wish that all Maltese, wherever they live in this globe, feel that they are part of the Diaspora and never lose their language, heritage and identity. We are a big happy family. The thousands of Maltese who visit the island from overseas help the economy and promote Malta.
- ❖ I wish that all the Maltese councils, associations in Australia, and elsewhere, who work so hard to maintain the link between Malta and Australia be supported, be recognized and be thanked for their sterling work they do for the Maltese citizens living abroad.
- ❖ I wish Health, Peace. Happiness and God's blessings to all Maltese families living in Malta or living overseas
- ❖ I will always SMILE and say THANK YOU – it is so thoughtful and nice and doesn't cost a cent.

**Nisperaw li dawn ir-rezoluzzjonijiet issehhu
fis-sena l-gdida 2015**

Submitted by A. Farrugia Western Australia



Trevor Żahra

Il-papà iss'għandu l-*facebook*,
Tgħidx kemm qed iħossu smart,
Qisu skopra f'salt l-Amerka...
Għalkemm daqs mitt sena tard.

Il-ħin kollu jistaqsina:
"Dar-ritratt kif napplowdjah?"
Għax għalkemm bl-*account* u l-*password*,
Bilkemm għadu jaf jużah.

U jgħidilna b'kull ma jaqra...
"Għax l-Italja għamlu strajk!"
Jagħmel sigħat shaħ jiskrollja,
Kull ritratt jagħmillu *LIKE*.

Anki jekk tkun aħbar falza
Xorta waħda jrid jaqraha,
U jemminha ... "għax fil-*facebook*"
U ma' hbiebu jixxerjaha.

Ritratt xehet, ta' żgħožit, u
U tgħidx x'ferh ... xi frattarija
Għax f'jumejn tletin *LIKE* laqqat!
Qisu rebah lotterija!

Għalhekk inti, li qed taqra,
Hu paċenzja, kun bil-lest,
Jekk dalwaqt, minghand missieri,
Se tasallek *friend request*.

Fittex wiegħbu ... u aċċetta,
W ibqa' ċert, jiktiblek żgur,
Għaliex halef li jrid jgħaqqad
Hamest elef fi ftit xhur.

Izda 'k forsi, b'xi prodotti
Jew b'xi logħba dlonk javżak,
Jew f'xi nitfa pastażata
Ifettillu jitteggjak...

Toħodhiex tant kontra tiegħu,
Toqgħodx tgħajru w takkużah,
Ftakar li dal-qahbeċ *facebook*
Bilkemm għadu jaf jużah!



Two Renaissance paintings restored



Two Renaissance panels have been restored with the support of Banif.

The paintings are two of 11 or more, from an altarpiece by Antonio de Saliba (c.1466-

c.1535), that was commissioned for the late medieval Rabat Franciscan Minor Observants' Church of Santa Maria di Gesù (Ta' Giezu).

In the course of the restoration, which lasted a year and a half, a number of interesting insights into the 700-year-old paintings were unearthed, including new colours and new textures.

Chief restorer Paul Muscat removed layers of over-painting that had given the work a close resemblance to what was intended by the original artist.

In the Madonna and Child panel, the Madonna previously held a rose that she passed on to the Child but the rose was originally a passion flower. The Christ Child had been completely overpainted altering the body entirely and concealing a coral pendant hanging from a necklace.

ReCoop Laboratories were commissioned to undertake diagnostic tests on the paintings and restore them to their former glory by the University's Department of History of Art, directed by Mario Buhagiar and assisted by Charlene Vella. Atlas Insurance, Island Insurance Brokers and ReCoop also supported the project.

Record weekend: 15,000 visit Bethlehem f'Ghajnsielem



Last weekend was a record for Gozo, with two attractions drawing many thousands of people, namely Bethlehem f'Ghajnsielem, with 15,000 visitors and Dinja tat-Tfal, the children's fun park held at the Gozo Sports Complex in Victoria, where 9,000 children attended, the Ministry for Gozo said-

One of the highlights at the Nativity Village was the fisherman's boat, which provided the visitors the opportunity to take a journey in a Gozo-boat from the fishermen's port.

The boat was especially built for this purpose by Ghajnsielem Local Councillor Peter Caruana, who has years of experience in traditional boat-building.

In a statement today the Ministry for Gozo said that, Gozo Channel, between Friday and Sunday, carried 47,052 people and made 162 trips. While almost eleven thousand passengers chose to visit Gozo with their vehicle. The Christmas in Gozo Committee said that it has had very good feedback from commercial operators, saying that some of the restaurants chose to stay open all day because of the large amount of people wanting their service.

The Minister for Gozo Anton Refalo accompanied by the Chairman of the Christmas in Gozo Committee, Joe Mifsud, visited all the venues including the Arkadia and The Duke who had prepared special programmes for their customer's children. There were also a large number of Maltese visiting the island on organised tours over the weekend.

**GHAZIZ QARREJ, NISPERA LI HADT PJACIR D'DAN ID-DAQXEJN GURNAL
U NARAK SENA OHRA**

**DEAR READER, I HOPE YOU ENJOYED THIS NEWSLETTER
AND I'LL SEE YOU NEXT YEAR 2015**