

THE JOURNAL OF THE MALTESE DIASPORA

MALTESE NEWSLETTER

LINKING THE MALTESE ALL OVER THE GLOBE

**A BOOK TO COMMEMORATE
THE ANZAC CENTENARY 1915 – 2015**

(Limited Edition)

This commemorative book is packed with detailed information regarding the role that Malta played during World War1 to assist the ANZACS. It includes photos, documents and list of ANZAC and Maltese soldiers, hospitals, military ships in Malta and cemeteries where 300 ANZACS are buried. CONTACT: Frank Scicluna Email honconsul@live.com.au

MALTA AND THE ANZACS

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The Nurse of
the Mediterranean
ANZAC CENTENARY
1915-2015****AVAILABLE NOW**

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ANZAC CENTENARY 1915-2015

UNVEILING OF ANZAC MONUMENT AT PROSPECT MEMORIAL GARDENS - SOUTH AUSTRALIA
12 APRIL 2015



From left: Hon Consul Frank Scicluna, Frank Owen - RSL Prospect, Brig. Tim Hanna - President RSL SA Branch
Charlie Farrugia - President Maltese RSL Sub branch, Robert Banton, President RSL Prospect,
David O'Loughlin - Mayor of Prospect, John Haddway - Secretary Prospect RSL





**IN MEMORY OF
THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SOLDIERS WHO FOUGHT
AT GALLIPOLI TURKEY
DIED AND BURIED IN MALTA DURING WORLD WAR I
ANZAC CENTENARY 1915 – 2015**

NAME	RANK/No	REGEEMENT
BREWER GORDON	PRIVATE /558	12 TH AUS INFANTRY BN
BRUCE JACK MCCULLOCH	PRIVATE/ 797	10 TH AUS INFANTRY BN
CADDY FRANK BAYLISS	PRIVATE/1668	10 TH AUS INFANTRY BN
COOK ALFRED EDWARD	MAJOR	9 TH AUS LIGHT HORSE
DAVIDSON CLARENCE	CORPORAL 226	3 RD AUS LIGHT HORSE
EVANS FRANCIS GILBERT	PRIVATE 63	10 TH AUS INFANTRY BN
HENNESSY JOHN	SERGEANT/277	9 TH AUS LIGHT HORSE
HOLT ARTHUR ERNEST	PRIVATE/306	3 RD AUS LIGHT HORSE
MANUEL WILLIAM GEORGE	GUNNER/1821	3 RD BDE AUS FIELD ARTIL
McLEAN EDGAR GORDON	PRIVATE/1796	27 TH AUS INFANTRY BN
MERRITT PERCIVAL CHARLES	PRIVATE/568	11 TH AUST INFANTRY BN
MOREY JAMES LAWRENCE	PRIVATE/2411	10 TH AUS INFANTRY BN
PAISH ALBERT WALTER	PRIVATE/1082	4 TH ARMY MED. CORPS
RAINEY HAROLD	PRIVATE/2009	10 TH AUST INFANTRY BN
SIMPSON MALCOLM HENRY	PRIVATE/1741	16 TH AUS INFANTRY BN
TUCKER LESLIE EVERARD	PRIVATE/2027	10 TH AUS INFANTRY BN
WHITE JOHN ALEXANDER	PRIVATE/451	10 TH AUS INFANTRY BN
WRIGHT ERNEST PERCY	PRIVATE/1368	12 TH AUS INFANTRY BN

MALTESE RSL SUB-BRANCH – SOUTH AUSTRALIA

LEST WE FORGET

WW2 - MALTA WAR DIARY RE-OPENS TO COMPLETE THE CHRONICLE IN TIME FOR 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIEGE



I am writing to let you know that the website www.maltagc70.com which chronicles the events of World War Two in Malta will be re-launched at midnight on 10th June to mark 75th anniversary of the first air raids over Malta. The new daily diary will open with the declaration of war by Italy and continue through 17 months to October 2016.

Maltagc70.com was launched in November 2011 and already covers events up to the end of the siege of Malta in December 1942. The new section will result in a complete day by day account of the second siege of Malta, ready in time for 75th anniversary of the award of the George Cross.

The site has been viewed over 200,000 times already, uniting over 50,000 readers in more than 100 countries worldwide in remembering the ordeal of Malta during the war. The majority reside in the

Maltese diaspora: Australia, New Zealand, the USA and Canada, and the UK, as well as Malta. As well as bringing together world communities in commemorating the siege, maltagc70.com has become a learning and research resource for educational establishments and historians across the globe.

Taken from official war diaries and correspondence from the National Archives, the diary gives accounts of air raids, fighter sorties, naval patrols and convoys as they happened. A vital role is played by Malta's own Armed Forces

and police, plus civil defence volunteers, such as Special Constabulary, nurses and Air Raid Precautions. Where possible, the site includes personal memories of those who experienced the siege.

The maltagc70 project was established to provide an immediate and lasting memorial to courage and fortitude of Malta during the war. I hope the relaunch of the website will introduce many more readers to this unique story, uniting Maltese across the world during the approach to 75th anniversary of the George Cross and beyond.

If you would like further information on www.maltagc70.com, you can contact me by email at



bdmalta@btinternet.com.

Susan Hudson Editor, maltagc70

A MALTESE ARTISTIC GREAT: EDWARD CARUANA DINGLI

Written by [Elizabeth Ayling](#)



You'll still see these carts on Malta's roads, even if the dress has changed.

Painting: Edward Caruana Dingli

Edward Caruana Dingli (1876-1950) is without doubt one of the finest artists Malta has ever produced. His love for all that was beautiful and his impeccable eye for detail, coupled with an unfaltering technique, produced the most appealing and charming of paintings of the 20th

century. *Patrimonju Malti*, a non-profit-making heritage foundation, is bringing some 250 of Caruana Dingli's paintings together in a magnificent exhibition running in May in Valletta.



Folkloristic vignette: 'The Orange Seller'

About the man – CHEV. EDWARD CARUANA DINGLI

Born into an artistic family in Valletta in 1876, Caruana Dingli had a knack for drawing from a very young age. In 1913 he gave up his military service to fulfil his long standing ambition of becoming a full-time artist. He was well connected with the Maltese elite as well as the British government in Malta, and as a result had no problem finding work. His talent and dedication saw him rise to the top in his field, and he in fact led the artistic scene in Malta through the first half of the 20th century. Artistically, he was direct heir to Giuseppe Cali, his friend and mentor, and passed the baton on to his own students at the Malta Government School of Art. Edward Caruana Dingli continued painting until his death in 1950.

His subjects and technique Primarily a portrait painter in oils, his sitters included some of the most prominent figures of Maltese society, as well as nobility, politicians, clerics and prelates. They were portrayed wearing their most lavish clothing, jewellery and badges of office. Caruana Dingli had the superb ability to capture his sitter's personality and to immortalise it on

canvas. His portraits are both captivating and engaging. His male figures exalt pride, power and earnestness, while his female portraits depict sensuality, elegance and sophistication.



In contrast, his folkloristic themes, mainly in watercolour, celebrate the spirit of the Maltese countryside, its coast and village squares. His numerous street scenes include farmers returning with their flocks, hawkers at markets and children playing traditional street games. Whatever the subject, his paintings are characterised by a prominent verve and charm, accentuated through his unpolished brushwork of rich brilliant colour.



NURSES AT GALLIPOLI WW1 CENTENARY 1915-2015

The nurses' experience of Gallipoli from their letters

For Australians, the image usually associated with 25 April, 1915 is that of Australian soldiers charging bravely up the steep and barren slopes of Gallipoli. Less appreciated is the picture of an Australian nurse on that same day attending to hundreds of battered and bleeding men on the decks and in the confined wards of a hospital ship. Wounded men were ferried out to the Gascon lying off Anzac Cove. Among the

nurses, doctors and orderlies who attended them there, was Sister Ella Tucker, AANNS: *The wounded from the landing commenced to come on board at 9 am*

and poured into the ship's wards from barges and boats. The majority still had on their field dressing and a number of these were soaked through. Two orderlies cut off the patient's clothes and I started immediately with dressings. There were 76 patients in my ward and I did not finish until 2 am.





Australian sisters on board the SS Mooltan.

By the evening of 25 April, 557 wounded had been taken on board the Gascon. Ella Tucker stayed with the ship for the next nine months as it ferried over 8000 wounded and sick soldiers between the Gallipoli Peninsula and the hospitals on Imbros, Lemnos, Salonika, Alexandria, Malta and in England. An entry in her diary for a voyage in May reflects the stressed and, at times, almost surreal nature of her work: **Every night there are two or three deaths, sometimes five or six; its just awful flying from one ward into another ... each night is a nightmare, the patients' faces all look so pale with the flickering ship's lights.**

A Gallipoli nurse with a kitten mascot,



born in the trenches

On the hospital ships off Gallipoli, Australian nurses came face to face for the first time with the reality of the wounded. It made some of them confront the limitations of their nursing skills and the notion of the glory of war. Working on the hospital ship *Sicilia* Sister Lydia King confided to her diary: *I shall never forget the awful feeling of hopelessness on night duty. It was dreadful. I had two wards downstairs, each over 100 patients and then I had small wards upstairs — altogether about 250 patients to look after, and one orderly and one Indian sweeper. Shall not describe their wounds, they were too awful. One loses sight of all the honour and the glory in the work we are doing.*

Cottonera Hospital 1915



Cottonera Hospital was considered to be 'one of the best hospitals of southern Europe' at the time

Cottonera Hospital will always be remembered for the major role it played in World War I, when Malta was known as **The Nurse Of The Mediterranean**



Description A group of convalescent British officers with two nurses of the Blue Sisters Nursing Order in the Blue Sisters Hospital grounds, Sliema, Malta. The only officer to be identified is Lieutenant Shadwell (standing top left)

Period [WWI](#)

Country [Malta](#)

Unit [2nd Field Company, NZE](#)

Subject [British Forces](#)

Acknowledgement - [The National Army Museum of New Zealand](#)

SISTER HELEN TAYLOR



Helen Taylor served as a Voluntary Aid Detachments VAD working for the Red Cross in Malta during the First World War. The VAD was a voluntary organisation providing field-nursing services, mainly in hospitals. The most important periods of VAD operation were during World War I and World War II. She was the daughter of the Late Henry Hilton Green of Felmersham, Bedfordshire, England.

Malta was used as a base for supplying and supporting the battles in Gallipoli and Salonika. Other graves, in the military cemetery, are of servicemen who also died in November 1915 and they show that many of them died in Malta of wounds received in Gallipoli.

Helen died, in her 42nd year, from dysentery in Floriana Hospital, Malta. Her headstone states, "She gave her life for others" which suggests she caught her illness while nursing the wounded. Passed away Nov. 15, 1915. She is buried in Pieta Military Cemetery, Malta (photo above).

Northern Territory- **AUSTRALIA**

The Northern Territory occupies about one sixth of Australia's total land mass, with a population of about 200,000 and is home to some of the natural world's most unique and exciting destinations. Equivalent in size to France, Italy and Spain combined, it is blessed with an abundance of natural environments.



The Northern Territory story unfolds through six main destinations. From the red sandy desert of Alice Springs and Uluru / Ayers Rock and the golden plains of Tennant Creek, to the savannah woodlands surrounding Katherine and the lush green tropics of Darwin and Kakadu, it's not surprising the Northern Territory is a popular destination for travellers keen to experience Australia's outback.

It is known around the world for its iconic natural treasures, including the World Heritage-listed Kakadu National Park and Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park. The flora and fauna is as diverse as desert blooms are to lotus lilies and the fearsome saltwater crocodile is to the Brolga, the elegant dancing bird that is Northern Territory emblem.

The Northern Territory has a rich Indigenous culture and the Aboriginal people hold a spiritual connection to the land that dates back tens of thousands of years. Their culture can be shared today – through a walk in the desert in search of bush tucker, a visit to the ancient rock art galleries, or simply sitting in on a story-telling session.

One of the most popular ways to explore the Northern Territory is by vehicle and the Northern Territory's well-maintained roads cover some of the most memorable scenery in Australia.

Themed drives include the Nature's Way, Red Centre Way, Explorer's Way, Binn's Track and part of the Savannah Way which traverse a number of regions throughout the Territory. There are a number of challenging four-wheel drive detours to beautiful and secluded destinations that allow you to experience the most rugged parts of the Territory.



AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINES: What is Sorry Day?

On 26 May every year, ceremonies, marches, speeches and presentations are held around the country to commemorate Sorry Day, the day on which Australians express regret for the historical mistreatment of Aboriginal people. The first Sorry Day was held in 1998, one year after the report 'Bringing them Home' was first tabled in parliament.



The report, which resulted from a Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission inquiry, documented the forced removal of many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families, between 1910 and the 1970s.

The children who were removed have come to be known as the Stolen Generations.

In 1992, Prime Minister Paul Keating made a speech in Redfern, which acknowledged for the first time that 'we took the children from their mothers'. In 2000, on the 28th May, more than 250,000 people participated in the Bridge Walk across Sydney Harbour Bridge.

The walk, which was organised by the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation (now known as Reconciliation Australia), was in support of Indigenous Australians and highlighted the issue of the lack of a Government apology to Indigenous people for the Stolen Generations.

In 2005, Sorry Day was renamed as a National Day of Healing for all Australians by the National Sorry Day Committee.

"The Day will focus on the healing needed throughout Australian society if we are to achieve reconciliation" (Extract from the National Sorry Day Council Archives: Senator Aden Ridgeway, National Day of Healing Launch, Great Hall Parliament House, Canberra, Wednesday 25 May 2005).

On the 13th of February 2008, more than ten years after the 'Bringing Them Home Report' was tabled, then Prime Minister Kevin Rudd made a historic, formal apology to Australia's Indigenous peoples; particularly the Stolen Generations and their families and communities, for laws and policies which had 'inflicted profound grief, suffering and loss on these our fellow Australians.'

The apology included a proposal for a policy commission to close the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians in 'life expectancy, educational achievement and economic opportunity.'

The human rights-based "Close the Gap" campaign for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health equality was established in 2006, with the campaign blueprint adopted by the Australian government in 2008.

Oxfam says Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples are still dying 10 to 17 years younger than other Australians.

Oxfam says babies born to Aboriginal mothers die at more than twice the rate of other Australian babies, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people experience higher rates of preventable illness such as heart disease, kidney disease and diabetes.

FASCINATING FACTS ABOUT THE ISLAND OF GOZO



compiled by the Telegraph UK.

1. The island has already appeared in several films, including *Single-Handed*, from 1953, and *Inseminoid*, a 1981 UK horror film.
2. Residents of Gozo – there are 37,000 – are called Gozitans.
3. Despite its small population, and tiny proportions – it is just eight miles long and four miles wide – there are 46 churches on the island.
4. The village of Xewkija has a population of just over 3,000, but possesses a church big enough to fit all its residents inside. Xewkija Church's dome is 75 metres high and 27 metres wide – making it the third-largest unsupported dome in Europe, behind St Peter's in Rome and St Paul's Cathedral.
5. Gozo's capital, Rabat, was renamed Victoria in the Golden Jubilee year of 1887, but the new moniker never quite stuck. Locals still usually call it Rabat.
6. The town's St James' Church was extended in the 20th century. However, according to Juliet Rix's *Brandt Guide to Malta and Gozo*, it faced problems obtaining planning permission due to its "habit of using the church bells to drown out political speakers in the square".
7. Azure Window – a limestone arch – is one of the most recognisable locations on the island. It appeared in the TV series *Game of Thrones*, and has gained notoriety as a cliff-diving location.
8. The island also appeared in *Brideshead Revisited*. It was used to portray Morocco.
9. The Victoria Cathedral museum contains a shoe belonging to Pope Pius VII, and Pope John Paul II's gloves and hat.
10. Diving is popular here – there are more than a dozen dives accessible from the shore, including the Blue Hole and Ghasri Cave.
11. According to Homer, the Gozitan sea nymph Calypso managed to keep Odysseus enslaved here for seven years, until he escaped and returned to his wife.
12. Ggantija – a 5,500-year-old temple complex and UNESCO World Heritage Site on Gozo – is believed to be the world's second oldest man-made religious structure, after Göbekli Tepe in Turkey.
13. The name in Maltese GGANTIJA means "belonging to the giants" – legend has it that the structures were built by mythical beings.
14. The first settlers here sailed from Sicily, perhaps coming from the area around Agrigento. That influence has lasted some time – although Gozo is Maltese, the food is distinctly Italian.
15. Fungus Rock, just off the coast of Dwejra, is known for having grown a rare plant – known as general's root – which was touted by the Knights of Malta (who ruled the island from 1530 to 1798) as a cure for ailments including dysentery and impotence.
16. Several proposals have been made to build a bridge, or even a tunnel, linking Gozo with Malta. A Chinese firm was hired to carry out a feasibility study last summer. There is no airport on the island.

Maltese Traditional Instruments

with special thanks to Anna Borg Cardona's Website: Malta's Musical Legacy

The ċuqlajta



The ċuqlajta is an instrument which on the Maltese Islands has very strong associations with Holy Week. Iċ-ċuqlajta encompasses a large number of different shapes and sizes of clappers and ratchets which produce their sound in different ways. Most are made totally of wood but a few are made of wood and metal or even out of Arundo donax reeds. One particular type of clapper has existed in Malta since Roman times and can still be seen in folk bands particularly in Gozo.



Il-qarn

Another early, natural instrument is the horn, il-qarn or il-qrajna. Horns have long had protective properties on the Maltese Islands and for this reason were often placed over farmhouse doors to protect the inhabitants from the 'evil eye' of strangers arriving at the house. Cattle horns were also used as sound instruments when blown through a reed or reed and pipe (hornpipe). Horns were particularly associated with Carnival, suggesting a previous connection with spring ritual.



The bedbut

Simple whistles are commonly made out of corn or wheat stems and the Arundo donax reeds (Maltese qasab). These are known as il-bedbut, pl il-bdiebet. They were often made and used by children and then unceremoniously discarded. The bedbut, a down-cut single reed is made out of the Arundo donax plant and is also used as part of other more complex instruments.



The žummar

Another very simple folk instrument is the mirliton or kazoo known in Malta as iż-żummar. This is made out of a section of Arundo donax reed into which a hole is drilled and on one end of which grease-proof paper is tied with string. One then hums a melody into the hole thus producing a rough raspy sound.



The flejguta

Malta's folk flute is known as il-flejguta. This is made out of a length of Arundo donax reed and is constructed on the principle of the penny whistle and recorder. It has a varying numbers of fingerholes.



The tanbur

The Maltese tambourine is known as it-tanbur in Malta and it-tamburlin in Gozo. It usually accompanies the bagpipe and other more recent instruments such as the accordion. The tanbur is made up of a round wooden brightly-coloured frame with a membrane tightly stretched on one side of it. It is known to have been of varying sizes, the largest reaching a diameter of about 60cm. It frequently has metal discs and pellet bells attached.

Iż-żaqq



The Maltese bagpipe, known as iż-żaqq, is particularly important because it is not exactly like any other bagpipe. However, there are certain similarities, most strikingly with the Greek tsambouna. The Maltese żaqq is made out of the skin of an animal – generally of prematurely-born calf, but also of goat or dog. The

complete skin is used including all four legs and tail. The chanter (is-saqqafa) is made up of two adjacent pipes, one with five fingerholes (left) and another with one (right). The chanter terminates with one large cattle horn.

Why Is Reading Important?



1. Reading is fundamental to function in today's society. There are many adults who cannot read well enough to understand the instructions on a medicine bottle. That is a scary thought - especially for their children. Filling out applications becomes impossible without help. Reading road or warning signs is difficult. Even following a map becomes a chore. Day-to-day activities that many people take for granted become a source of frustration, anger and fear.

2. Reading is a vital skill in finding a good job. Many well-paying jobs require reading as a part of job performance. There are reports and memos which must be read and responded to. Poor reading skills increases the amount of time it takes to absorb and react in the workplace. A person is limited in what they can accomplish without good reading and comprehension skills.

3. Reading is important because it **develops the mind**. The mind is a muscle. It needs exercise. Understanding the written word is one way the mind grows in its ability. Teaching young children to read helps them develop their language skills. It also helps them learn to listen. Everybody wants to talk, but few can really listen. Lack of listening skills can result in major misunderstandings which can lead to job loss, marriage breakup, and other disasters - small and great. Reading helps children [and adults] focus on what someone else is communicating.

4. Why is reading important? It is how we **discover new things**. Books, magazines and even the Internet are great learning tools which require the ability to read and understand what is read. A person who knows how to read can educate themselves in any area of life they are interested in. We live in an age where we overflow with information, but reading is the main way to take advantage of it.

5. **Reading develops the imagination**. TV and computer games have their place, but they are more like amusement. Amusement comes from two words "a" [non] and "muse" [think]. Amusement is non-thinking activities. With reading, a person can go anywhere in the world...or even out of it! They can be a king, or an adventurer, or a princess, or... The possibilities are endless. Non-readers never experience these joys to the same extent.

6. In line with the above, reading develops the creative side of people. When reading to children, stop every once in awhile and ask them what they think is going to happen next. Get them thinking about the story. When it is finished, ask if they could think of a better ending or anything that would have improved it. If they really liked the story, encourage them to illustrate it with their own drawings or to make up a different story with the same characters. Get the creative juices flowing!

7. Reading is fundamental in developing a good self image. Nonreaders or poor readers often have low opinions of themselves and their abilities. Many times they feel as if the world is against them. They feel isolated [everybody else can read - which isn't true] and behavior problems can surface. They can perform poorly in other subjects because they cannot read and understand the material and so tend to "give up."

8. Why is reading important? Let's keep going... Good reading skills, especially in a **phonics reading program**, improve spelling. As students learn to sound out letters and words, spelling comes easier. Also, reading helps to expand the vocabulary. Reading new words puts them in their mind for later use. Seeing how words are used in different contexts can give a better understanding of the word usage and definitions than the cold facts of a dictionary.

9. There is an old saying, "The pen is mightier than the sword." Ideas written down have changed the destiny of men and nations for better or worse. The flow of ideas cannot be stopped. We need to read and research to build on the good ideas and expose the bad ideas before they bring destruction. Only by reading can we be armed in this never-ending, life-and-death struggle.

10. Finally, why is reading important? **Reading is important** because words - spoken and written - are the building blocks of life. You are, right now, the result of words that you have heard or read AND believed about yourself. What you become in the future will depend on the words you believe about yourself now. People, families, relationships, and even nations are built from words. Think about it.

Proposed Gozo cruise terminal site sits on marine grass with high EU protection status



Kevin Schembri Orland

The Marine protected area on the site proposed for the Gozo Cruise Liner terminal is home to around 85% of *Posidonia oceanica* seagrass meadows commonly known as Neptune grass, which receives the highest level of EU protection, Marine Biologist Alan Deidun told the Malta Independent.

There are five marine protected areas around Malta, he said, and the one that covers the site ranges from St Georges Bay in Malta to beyond Marsalforn, he said, encompassing the Eastern part of Gozo as well as Comino.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature states that “at a European level, *Posidonia Oceanica* was included in Annex II of the Bern Convention as species of flora strictly protected. The Habitat Directive of the European Union (92/42 CEE of 21/05/1992) and its subsequent adaptation to technical and scientific progress through Directive 97/62/CE of 27/08/1997, include *Posidonia Oceanica* meadows as a priority conservation habitat in Annex 1, habitat 1120 within the European Union”.

Professor Deidun is quite concerned at the damage that a cruise liner terminal and a yacht marina can cause if built in Simar. Chapman Taylor in Milan had proposed the site to build the terminal, as well as a contemporary yacht marina and the quarry present there, according to their plans, would be excavated and settled in a limestone cove. They also plan for apartments to be built as well as villas.

Professor Deidun said the marine protected area was designated in 2010 through a government gazette notice. He stressed that “unfortunately, like other marine protected areas around the islands, there is no implementation of management measures and no one is monitoring the situation”.

“Yacht marinas and cruise ports are among the most harmful and bear the greatest impact on marine life. In this particular scenario, excavation as well as a large breakwater would be needed. This will result in a lot of dumping of construction waste as well as land reclamation to build the breakwater”. The site is completely exposed to the North Eastern wind, which is one of the strongest winds that hits the island, he explained.

The second aspect would see an impact during operations. “Yacht marinas would see lots of boats and jetties using anti-fouling paint to prevent growth of organisms on the boats and jetties. This will be released into the water constantly”. He explained that fuel and oil residue will also seep into the sea. “If the area is shallow enough, cruise liner engines could also whip up sediment from the sea bed, and then of course there is always sub-marine noise”.

The site is also very close to the channel between Malta and Gozo, and as such there are strong currents. “Any pollution from the site, once reaching the channel, will blow through and can reach the Hondoq ir-Rummien area, and thus people should not be confident that it would be spared. It is less than 2 km away”. He stressed that while the land part of the project has already been disturbed considering the quarry site, the marine area has not. “In my opinion however, the proposed footprint extends beyond the quarry”.

He stressed that accessibility is another concern, adding that the access roads in that area are very small. He stressed that they would likely need to be widened. He added that this would also increase traffic in the area both during the construction and operation phase, adding that traffic in Qala could possibly increase. “If they need a marina then they should consider Marsalforn and reconstruct the breakwater there, creating more berths for yachts. Go to an existing site don’t go to one with undisturbed protected marine life”.

Concluding, he asked why the Qala local council has remained silent on the issue given the uproar it had made when a project was planned for Hondoq. It is worth noting that Prime Minister Joseph Muscat said yesterday that the plans have not yet been seen by government.

Castello Zamittello

Located in Mgarr, MALTA



Castello Zamittello was built by wealthy Baron Bernardo Zamitt, and is a unique authentic castle that lies on the outskirts of the country village of Mgarr, on the way to Gnejna Bay. Built in Norman style in 1675, it was used to guard against sudden raids by corsairs, as indicated by the four unusual guard turrets adorning its facade. The Castle is now set in lush gardens and surrounded by calming country scenes.

Built around 300 years ago, this small castle surrounded by fields is within walking distance of the village of Mgarr. It was built in the Norman style and its main aim was to serve as a look-out post for any corsairs who may have anchored their ships in the near-by bay of Gnejna. . This small castle, of course, has its own legend. One version of the legend is that Lucia, the daughter of Baron Bernardo Zammit, disappeared on the day she was to marry an elderly Sicilian count.

Her distraught father, believing she had been carried away by corsairs, ordered an armed search of the nearby bay – to no avail. A year later, the bells of the local church started tolling unexpectedly and a vision of Lucia, clad in a nun's habit, appeared on the altar. Lucia confessed that she had run away from home to avoid marrying the elderly count and had taken refuge in a convent. After taking her vows she had spent the past year tending the wounded in a foreign land only to be killed by a stray arrow. I wonder if the ghost of Lucia sometimes wanders through the rooms of her old home.



SWISS CHEESE HOLE MYSTERY SOLVED

Scientists have finally uncovered the mystery cause of holes in swiss cheese. The old wives' tale claimed mice were responsible but it turns out the culprit is hay. These 'microscopically small hay particles' get into the milk and create holes as the liquid matures into cheese.

The discovery also solves another riddle - why the famous holes in cheeses like Emmentaler or Appenzeller have been getting smaller or disappearing completely over the last 15 years. It is because the milk has been getting cleaner.

The Agroscope institute claims the transition to fully-automated, industrial milking systems had caused holes to decline.

Gozo Campus offers short courses in lace making (Bizzilla) starting October



Two short courses in lace making are being organised by The Lace Making Programme at the University Gozo Campus.

The courses are as follows:

Introduction to the Art of Making Maltese Lace

Making a Lace Jacket / Conversion of Pattern to Table Runner

The courses will start on Saturday, the 3rd of October 2015. Lectures will be held at the University Gozo Campus, Mgarr Road, Xewkija, Gozo.

Those interested should contact the University Gozo Campus on Tel: 21564559, E-mail: ugc@um.edu.mt or write to the University of Malta – Gozo Campus, Mgarr Road, Xewkija, Gozo.



Jingħad li s-sengħa tal-bizzilla għet introdotta f'Malta fi żmien il-Kavallieri ta' San Ġwann. F'dak il-perjodu, il-bizzilla kienet meqjusa bħala xi ħaġa prestigġjuża ferm peress li kienet għalja ħafna. Kienu jilbsuha kemm l-irġiel u kif ukoll in-nisa nobbli, kollha b'kompetizzjoni bejniethom dwar kemm se jperrċu bizzilla fuq ħwejjigħom sabiex juru kemm jesgħu bwiethom. Uħud minn dawn l-individwi għadna nistgħu narawhom jiddandnu bil-bizzilla tagħhom sal-ġurnata ta' llum permezz tal-kwadri tagħhom li tpittru f'dawk is-snin.



Traditional Maltese QOFFA could be facing extinction

and either Adobe Flash or Html5 to view this vid

The traditional Maltese *qoffa* wicker basket risks extinction unless something is done to revive interest in the dying trade used to make it, according to 81-year-old John Mifsud who has been weaving cane shopping baskets since he was six.

"Apart from me there are just a few old men – I'd say two or three at most – who still make the Maltese qoffa. When we die, it'll be the end," Mr Mifsud said.

The Maltese *qoffa*, he said, can be distinguished from other cane shopping baskets because it is made of local, yellowish cane and has a few layers of darker strands.

Mr Mifsud recalled a time when there was a type of wicker basket for everything. Apart from the *qoffa*, which served as a shopping bag, there were special baskets to carry strawberries, for bingo, the ones farmers used for vegetables and those used to keep ferrets for the purpose of rabbit hunting. "When the bikini came to Malta I couldn't keep up with the workload," he added. "Their mothers did not let them wear the bikini. So they used to put it in the *qoffa* and put a towel over it. They'd wear it later." But the *qoffa* took a strong blow when plastic shopping bags took over, and he does not believe there was hope of the *qoffa* ever returning.

Obelisk fil-Ħamrun

Minn Alfie Guillaumier



Bil-għan li forsi nqajjem xi ftit kuxjenza Ħamruniża, se ngħib hawn ftit fatti dwar l-obelisk li jinsab fil-Ħamrun li ftit huma li qatt rawh għajr il-girien li jarawh quddiemhom, bla ma forsi jafu dik il-massa ġebel x'inhi. Jafu biss li hu xi monument, għaliex fil-għamla tiegħu jindika li hu xi haġa ta' min iħares lejha.

Mela, missieri fi ċkunitu kien joqgħod x'imkien Strada San Gejtanu u jien kont dejjem nisemgħu jgħid li fil-bitha ta' Ganni l-mastrudaxxa hemm monument. Pero' dan qatt ma kien jaf jgħid dak il-monument x'kien, l-ewwel forsi għaliex ma kienx jinteressah u t-tieni għaliex dan Ganni kien jaħbat fi Strada San Giovanni u kien jiġi dar ma' dar ma' fejn kien joqgħod missieri fi tfulitu. Meta għadda ż-żmien u missieri mar joqgħod fi Strada San Giovanni fejn twelidt jiena fin-numru 1 (illum dan il-bieb ma għadux jeżisti għaliex ġie inkorporat ma' dar oħra) isem dan il-monument baqa' impressjonat f'moħħi sakemm meta ġejt biex nikteb l-istorja tal-Ħamrun u qbadt niġbor il-materjal. Hawn ftakart fi kliem missieri u l-monument li kien isemmi lili u lil ħuti. Issa Ganni ma kienx għadu joqgħod hemm. Fil-gwerra kienet mietitlu l-mara u tifla ta' xi ħmistax-il sena b'bomba li ġiet fuq id-dar tiegħu, u li għal ftit ma tarx dan il-monument ukoll. Minfloku kien daħal mastrudaxxa ieħor, ċertu Ġorġ Xuereb bil-familja. Darba kont avviċinajt lil dan Ġorġ u staqsejtu jekk hux vera li fil-bitha tiegħu kien hemm monument. Ġorġ urieni dan il-monument u tellagħni fis-setaħ biex inkun nista' narah aħjar. Stagħgibt kif quddiem rajt monument il-kobor tiegħu u ma nesagerax meta ngħid li fih ftit inqas minn dak ta' 'Spencer' fil-Blata l-Bajda, imma isbaħ minnu. Fin-naħa t'isfel għandu l-post ta' arma li naturalment kienet taret bil-bomba li ġiet hdejh. Jien ikkuppjat l-iskrizzjon u ħadt id-dettalji kollha biex nipublikah.

Fi Frar 1968 kont qiegħed nipublika fuq 'Il-Berqa', il-parti dwar il-Ħamrun mis-serje 'Bliet u Rħula Maltin' u malli semmejt dan lill-Avukat Dr. Carmelo Testa, storiku mill-aqwa u li dak iż-żmien kien inkarigat minn din il-paġna, talabni jekk stajt nirranga biex jibgħat fotografu ħalli neħdulu ritratt u ngibuh fuq 'Il-Berqa'. Dak inhar stess jiena kellimt lil dan Ġorġ li tani l-ħin x'kien kellu jmur il-fotografu u naħseb li dan kien l-ewwel ritratt li qatt deher ta' dan il-monument. Minn dak in-nhar ħafna nies saru jafu bih, bla qatt ma rawh. Ma nafx kif, daħalli f'moħħi li forsi nħajjar l-awtoritajiet biex nippruvaw noħorġu dan il-monument midfun ġo bitha, u nqiegħduh ġo xi pjazza, żgur li jkun aħjar minn fejn qiegħed u b'hekk jista' jittgawda minn kulhadd.

Sa illum għadu hemm, imma għandi fehma soda li xi darba għad narawh isebbaħ xi pjazzetta. Kieku ma kienx idea ħazina li nqiegħduh fir-roundabout ta' hdejn l-istazzjon tal-ferrovija... illum l-iscouts. L-istorja ta' dan l-obelisk hija sempliċi. Wara li kien ilu xi mitejn sena jgħorr l-ilma ġo fih, l-Akwadott kien beda jitmerrmer u kellu bżonn li jiġi restawrat. Fl-1780 indaħal il-Gran Mastru De Rohan għal dan ix-xogħol kif tgħid il-kitba fuq dan l-obelisk u biex tibqa' mfakkra din il-ħidma fejjieda, inbena' fin-niżla tal-gholja ta' Tas-Samra, dan l-obelisk li maż-żmien sab ruħu mdawwar bil-bini tal-privat.

F'JUM IL-MISSIER – HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

Matul ix-xahar ta' Gunju, fil-gżejjer tagħna nfakkru 'Jum il-Missier'. Bħalma aħna tajna għeħ lil Omm matul ix-xahar ta' Mejju, xieraq illi issa nagħmlu l-istess ma' waħda miż-żewġ kolonni li fuqhom tistrieħ il-familja. Il-ghaliex jekk fi hdan l-Omm jingabru l-ulied bħalma l-qroqqa ddur b'uliedha, il-missier huwa t-tmun li b'għaqqal irid iriegi l-bastiment qalb il-ħalel u l-mewg tal-ħajja sa ma jwasslu hieni fil-port.

Bħall-Omm, il-missier jeħtieġu jagħmel għadd ta' saġrifici biex jara li fil-familja ma jkun jonqos xejn, u għalkemm ħafna drabi jkun barra fuq ix-xogħol, ħsiebu xorta waħda jkun id-dar, meta b'mod speċjali warajh ikun ħalla lil xi ħadd ma jiflaħx, mhux f'sikkta kif imiss. Il-ħajja fuq ix-xogħol mhux dejjem ward u żahar; mhux darba u tnejn il-missier ikollu jishar biex jara jgibx xi ħaġa iktar id-dar biex ikun jista' jlaħnaq ix-xlief. Drabi oħra jkollu saħansitra jħalli art twelidu biex jaqla' l-ħobża ta' kuljum u jkun jista' jeduka lil uliedu. Fi ftit kliem, huwa tassew floku li f'din il-għodwa niftakru fil-missier li tant jagħmel biex igib 'il quddiem lill-familja. Irridu niftakru wkoll f'dawk il-missierijiet anzjani li llum forsi qegħdin f'xi qiegħ ta' sodda inkella f'xi dar tax-xjuħ.

Dawn forsi jeħtieġu l-attenzjoni tagħna iktar minn dawk li għadhom xi ftit fiż-żmien. Kemm tagħmilhom tajjeb xi kelma ta' faraġ, ta' kuraġġ biex ma jħossuomx maqtugħin mid-dinja ta' barra! Għalkemm imdaħħla sew fiż-żmien u fiżikament ftit li xejn fadlilhom x'joffru, xorta waħda m'għandniex ninsewhom; għal kuntrarju wieħed għandu jiżen il-pariri siewja tagħhom. Il-qawl jgħid: Staqsi lill-imġarrab!

Bla dubju lanqas irridu ninsew lil dawk il-missierijiet li m'għadhomx magħna u li llum jinsabu taħt l-irħama kiesħa tal-qabar. Din hi l-festa tagħhom ukoll u għalhekk ninsabu fid-dmir li mmorru nżuruhom aħna la darba ma jistgħux jiġu huma. Bukkett fjuri flimken ma' xi talba fuq qabarhom kemm japprezzawha! F'Jum il-Missier, ta' kull sena l-Istitut tal-Familja l-Papa San Gwanni Pawlu t-Tieni jagħmel quddies a fil-Kappella taċ-Ċimiterju ta' Santa Marija (tal-Barmil) li għaliha huwa mistieden kulħadd.

Ejjew niftakru f'din il-quddies a fil-missierijiet kollha, dawk ħajjin u mejtin. Ilkoll jeħtieġu t-talb tagħna; ilkoll jistħoqqilhom il-ħsieb u l-attenzjoni tagħna. Li għamlu għalina ma għamlu ħadd u għalhekk dan ma rridux ninsewh! Nagħlaq din il-kitba qasira b'silta mill-poeżija tiegħi Lil Missieri"



**Le missier minix se ninsa
X'għamilt int matul is-snin;
Biex rabbejtni w edukajtني
Tajtني ħajtek, tajtni l-ħin,
Biex tarani dejjem f'saħħti
Bogħod mill-hemm u minn kull mard
Miexi dejjem fi triq watja
Mix-xewk nieqsa, kollha ward.
Dana inti dlonk għamiltu
Għax ħabbejtni żgur bi sħiħ,
Imiss lili li mħabbti
Jien nurik minn qalbi l-qiegħ!
Ħudha kollha din il-għożża
Illi jien għandi għalik;
Jien inwiegħdek illi f'ħajti
Fl-ebda ħin le ma ninsik!**

**Kav Joe M Attard
emarjos@hotmail.com**



The Confraternity of the Knights of St. Peter & St. Paul Inc.



The month of May was very interesting with the Supreme Council approving the new chapters of the Philippines and Belarus.

A committee was established in the Grand Chapter of Malta and new knights appointed in Melbourne, Malta, British Columbia, Italy, Belarus and the Philippines.

Now that June has started, all the attention will be directed to the feast of our patron saints Peter and Paul.

I encourage you to celebrate the feast of St. Peter and Paul by attending a Mass on the liturgical day, if it is possible on the Sunday before.

I know that some of the chapters will be having their investiture ceremony around that time. I wish you all the very best for a wonderful and joyous celebration.

A special edition of the Newsletter will be published for the feast of St. Peter and St. Paul in June.

The Grand Chapter of Melbourne will be celebrating the feast of St. Peter and St. Paul with a Dinner Dance on Saturday, 20 June, 2015 at Club Italia in Furlong Road, North Sunshine.

We start the Dinner Dance with a procession from the foyer to the front of the ballroom. The knights and dames wear the mantle for the opening ceremony and photo shots.

Afterward we start the music and dance. Food and drinks will follow. The music is provided by a DJ. and the Maltese Brass Band will perform during the merriment.

The celebrations will continue on Sunday, 5 July with a Solemn Mass and Investiture ceremony at St. Martin De Porres Parish in Avondale Heights.

After the Mass we have a get together at the Nancye Kirchner Neighbourhood Centre for some refreshments.

That brings the end of our celebrations.

Grandmaster PeterPaul Portelli

Melbourne Australia

Email us: grandmaster.knightsstpeterpaul@zoho.com

Dear Friends, enjoy reading this magnificent Newsletter that is being published here in Australia, and being transmitted all over the world. Thank you Mr Frank Scicluna..... Joe il-Mosti

The Maltese Newsletters are preserved in the Migration Museum Valletta, Malta and may be read on www.ozmalta.page4.me/

President's husband recipe book wins international award



Tisjir mill-Qalb 2014, a book of recipes from the President's husband Edgar Preca and nine chefs, has won the best world recipe book for a charitable cause in the Gourmand World Cookbook Awards held in China today.

The book, which has 80 recipes including a selection of vegetarian ones, was published and sold to raise funds for the Community Chest Fund.

Mr Preca was present for the presentation.

President Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca thanked all personalities who contributed recipes and IRIS for their photos.

The book was also a finalist in the best foreword and the best photography categories.

The chefs who contributed recipes to the book are: Manuel Aquilina, George Borg, Nancy Buhagiar, Neil Darmanin, Aaron Degabriele, Joseph Mizzi, Liz Said, Mark Schembri and Karmen Tedesco.

Tourism provides one in every five jobs in Gozo



The Tourism Minister Edward Zammit Lewis, with the contribution and participation of social partners involved directly with the tourism sector, recently launched a Report on Tourism in Malta and its relationship to our economy.

The Minister said that tourism provides one out of every five jobs in Gozo. This report substantiates the importance of having a clear policy for tourism as published through the National Tourism Policy in recent weeks.

The Minister stated that the tourism sector experienced steady growth over the past years with continuous diversification to become one of the fastest growing industries world-wide. Nationally, it has developed into a major contributor towards Malta's economic growth and therefore a detailed study on the industry's input to the economy has been commissioned to solidify the cause of success and base the way forward for further growth.

One of the major variables which the report identifies is how the tourism industry in Malta has contributed towards growing employment opportunities. Tourist arrivals reached over 1.7 million in 2014 sustaining 20,500 direct jobs in the sector and an estimated 7,500 which are engaged indirectly.

GRTU's Deputy President Philip Fenech, responsible for GRTU's Leisure and Tourism section, commented on how over the past years our tourism sector has become more accessible to our arrivals potential through ever-increasing linkages to our island. Low-cost airlines showed their mark by

encouraging the building up of the independent traveller aside to the already existent tour-operator market.

He said that, online sources have also been an important source for growth. In parallel to this, Malta's business sector has continuously supported the developments to increase receptiveness and potential. The atmosphere for growth has been set and private investment has instilled confidence in tourism growth. "It is expected that the public sector should also match the pace with that of the private sector if sustained growth is to be ensured. Infrastructure is one of the areas which remains behind," said Philip Fenech.

"Our tourism sector has taken shape from a mainly colonial tourist to a more diversified sector having developed through various niches. This gives a sense of security as the sector departs from resting on only one type of tourist market."

Fenech added, "these new segments also need to be developed further by tapping into emerging markets every year. The challenge is now how to refine the segments to optimise influx whilst monitoring that one segment does not override other existing or emerging niches."

"1.7 million is a large amount for our island which leads to near-saturation point in peak months. However, GRTU's vision promotes extending focus onto the shoulder months, moving away from the traditional sun-and-sea tourism onto creating other types of tourists, such as the cultural tourist, with cultural events held throughout Malta's mild winters."

TADAM TALJAN - Italian tomatoes



By [Pete Wrapson](#) | [April 23, 2015](#) | In [Around the world](#)

The tomato is integral to so many classic Italian and Maltese dishes. In fact, it's hard to imagine the countries' cuisine without it.

Yet that was the situation until the sixteenth century, when Spanish conquistadors brought the novel fruit back as part of their plunder from the recently discovered Americas. It soon travelled to Italy. The earliest description we have is from 1544, written by an Italian doctor and botanist named Mattioli. He gave it the name *pomo d'oro* (golden apple) which persists to this day.

It grew well in the Italian climate and gradually became popular, though initially only as an ornamental due to suspicion that it was poisonous, since it clearly belonged to the nightshade family. In fact, assimilation into local cuisine took a couple of hundred years.

As time passed, different varieties of tomatoes emerged, all flavoursome and well adapted to local conditions. As is the way in Italy, these became firmly associated with their particular regions, and with particular regional dishes.

The tomato's place of origin is frequently included in its name. More than three hundred varieties are grown in Italy – the few featured here are simply those whose seed is readily available in the Malta. Different types of tomato – cherry, plum, beefsteak and so on – have different culinary uses because they have different physical properties.

Plum (or paste) tomatoes are first choice for sauces because they have thick, meaty flesh, fewer seeds, less juice, and thicker skins, which makes them comparatively easy to peel. Commercially, they are usually tinned or used for passata. The most well known is 'San Marzano', which hails from the Sarno valley near Vesuvius and thrives in its volcanic soil. It has been awarded PDO (protected designation of origin) status. It is also the tomato needed to make a true Neapolitan pizza.

'Principe Borghese' is a smaller, rounded plum from the same part of Campania. It is a traditional favourite for sun-drying (use an oven in the UK!) and for hanging. It is one of several cultivars that are known by the umbrella term *pomodorigino del piennolo del Vesuvio* (small hanging tomato of Vesuvius) or simply *pomodorigino Vesuviano*. Whole vines are cut and

hung up in bunches somewhere covered but well ventilated, where they keep fresh for months, thanks to a thick skin and a strong attachment to their stalks.



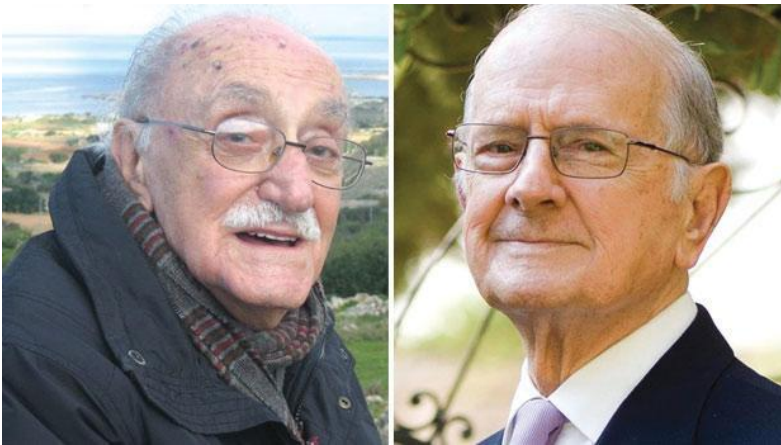
Beefsteak tomatoes are much larger, but their skins are thin and as a result they do not travel well, which is why they are only usually sold in the UK if they are very under-ripe. They are good in salads, for slicing and even for stuffing.

'Cuor di Bue' (Ox Heart) is strawberry shaped and huge, and from Liguria. Smaller but still large are the various *costoluto* (ribbed) cultivars, such as 'Costoluto Genovese', 'C. Fiorentino' and 'C. di Parma'. They are very similar in appearance to the tomatoes of Mattioli's day.

Pachino, a town in southeast Sicily, is a famous centre for tomato production. The climate is such that they will grow year-round, in polytunnels at least. A number of different varieties are referred to as *pomodori di Pachino* including *ciliegini* and *datterini*, their shape likened to

cherries and small dates respectively. Both are well worth seeking out.

As I've said on many occasions, I enjoy growing tomatoes above all other crops but it is hard work in the UK. Sunshine and warmth are never guaranteed, and there's always the danger that blight will kill the plants off early. For obvious reasons, most gardeners (myself included) would dearly love to spend a summer growing them in Italy or Malta.



Two great public servants

Great loss for Malta:

Frederick Amato Gauci (left) and Maurice de Giorgio.

Two great public servants passed away recently within days of each other. Both gentlemen were in their 90s. One, Maurice de Giorgio, who had been a successful businessman before devoting the last 23 years of his life to the cause of Malta's rich cultural heritage, was still actively involved in the daily

running of Fondazzjoni Patrimonju Malti. The other, Frederick Amato Gauci (my Uncle Freddie, my mother's brother), had spent a lifetime in public service, retiring only when well into his 70s.

Maurice de Giorgio and Freddie Amato Gauci epitomised what the ethic of public service in Malta was once like. They were in it because their whole upbringing, education and background had impelled them to feel that it was an honour to serve one's country. They were probably the last of a gentleman-breed of public servant whose genetic code of professional expectations was transmitted from one generation to another in a way that happens in a relatively small group of people.

Both had served in defence of Malta during World War II – Maurice as Adjutant in one of the Royal Malta Artillery regiments, where his impeccable organisational skills were developed. And Freddie Amato Gauci, also in the Royal Malta Artillery, where he was one of the youngest majors in the regiment, earning the award of a military MBE.

END OF NEWSLETTER 84 - TMIEM IL-GURNAL 84 SAHHA