

# THE JOURNAL OF THE MALTESE DIASPORA

## MALTESE NEWSLETTER

LINKING THE MALTESE ALL OVER THE GLOBE



### READER'S OPINION:

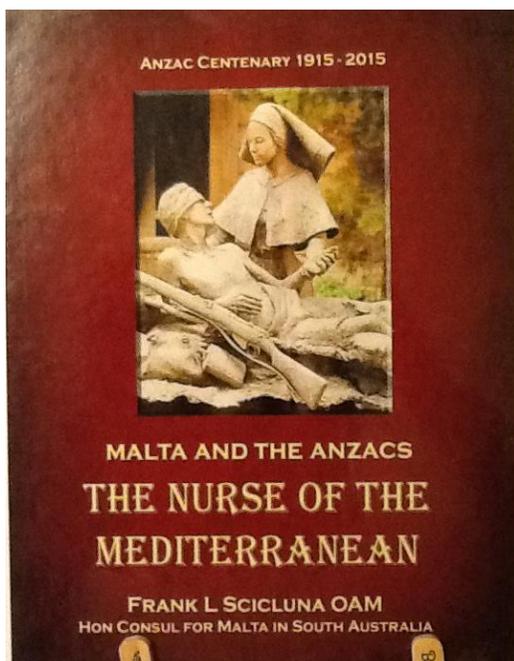
I have finally finished reading your book. Unfortunately, my reading time is scarce due to the usual daily chores associated with work and family so it took me a while. You did ask for my feedback and it is my pleasure to respond, even if you had not asked, I would have been compelled to give it anyway.

As a Maltese born Australian I felt a huge swell of pride upon learning and discovering the extent of Malta's involvement and contribution to the war effort. As a young girl growing up in Sliema, I had no idea that some of the places I frequented or walked past regularly were of historical importance. My Form V class of '79 was one of the first to use St Andrews as a school facility, and again I was surprised to read its history in your book. Besides

being a process of revelation for me, your book also stirred up memories of my dear grandmother's stories relating to my grandfather being a soldier. I remember very little unfortunately but Alexandria and Salonika were definitely talked about.

Thank you so much for writing this book. I believe the Maltese, Australians and New Zealanders all over the world should be indebted to you for compiling and condensing all these historical facts into this book. It is also a wonderful tribute to the fallen ANZACS. I will truly treasure it and I'm sure it will serve to enlighten many generations ahead of us.

Kind Regards  
Elaine Cotter



Order a copy of this limited edition of MALTA AND THE ANZACS – THE NURSE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN  
Write to me on [honconsul@live.com.au](mailto:honconsul@live.com.au) Cost: \$35 + \$12 (within Australia)



## SIR PAUL BOFFA, OBE (30 JUNE 1890 – 6 JULY 1962)

Dr Paul Boffa was a Maltese prime minister (1947–50) who took office after self-rule was reinstated by the British colonial authority following the end of World War II.

**Life** [https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Paul\\_Boffa&action=edit&section=1](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Paul_Boffa&action=edit&section=1) Born in Vittoriosa on 30 June 1890, Paul Boffa was educated at the Lyceum and at the University of Malta from where he graduated as a medical doctor in 1912. During World War I, he served with the Royal Medical Corps in Malta, Salonika and on hospital ships. After the war he set up in private practice in Paola. In 1921, he married Genoveffa Cecy and had two sons and two daughters: Salvino (aka Vivi), Hilda, Joseph (aka Profs), Carmelina (aka Melina). He died at his residence in Paola and is buried at the All Souls Cemetery in Tarxien. Former King George V

(KGV) Hospital - a memorial to the men of the Merchant Navy who died in World War 1 - was renamed to Sir Paul Boffa Hospital in 1976.

**Politics** Paul Boffa entered politics when Malta was granted self-government in 1921 and joined the Labour Party in 1923. He was returned to Legislative Assembly under the Amery-Milner Constitution in 1924, 1927 and 1932 and elected Leader of the Labour Party in 1927. The Labour and the Constitutional Parties formed an electoral agreement (known as the "Compact") for the 1927 elections. Thanks to this the Constitutional Party was able to form a government with the support of Labour although this was not a coalition in the true sense of the word as Labour refused to assume any ministerial portfolios. In 1932 Boffa was the only Labour Party candidate elected to the Legislative Assembly until it was dissolved in 1933. He was nominated as a member of the Executive Council from 1936–1939 and was elected, again as the sole Labour representative, to the Council of Government in 1939.

During the World War II, Paul Boffa served with distinction as district Commissioner and ARP Medical Officer in the Cottonera, Paola, Tarxien and Luqa areas. He was awarded the O.B.E. in 1941. In the 1945 elections Boffa was again elected in the Labour Party's interests. He reached the acme of his political career in November 1947 when, he became the first Labour Prime Minister leading a majority government of 24 Labour members. In 1949, following the Labour Party's ultimatum to Britain concerning financial help, the Labour Party split up but Boffa continued as Prime Minister. He later founded and led the Malta Workers' Party (MWP). The MWP lost the 1950 Elections.

Boffa was re-elected in 1951 and in 1953 and joined a coalition government with the Nationalist Party led by Giorgio Borg Olivier, assuming the portfolio of Minister of Health and Social Services. The MWP did not contest the 1955 elections and in 1955 he resigned for health reasons. He retained an interest in politics and was nominated Honorary President of the Christian Workers' Party (CWP).

Boffa was created a Knight Bachelor in the 1956 New Year's Honours List in recognition of distinguished public services. He was also awarded the 1914-18 Star, the General Service Medal, the Victory Medal, the Coronation Medal and the Defence Medal. Boffa was instrumental in obtaining recognition for the Maltese language in the law courts and the introduction of compulsory primary education and old-age pensions.



### XAGHRA ASSOC OF NSW INC TAL-VITORJA DINNER DANCE 2015

**Guest of Honour: Rev Mons Carmelo Refalo - (Archpriest of Xaghra)**

**When:** Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> September 2015  
**Where:** Balmoral Function Centre  
 47-49 Balmoral Rd, BLACKTOWN  
**Time:** 6:30pm onwards  
**Food:** 5 Course Meal, beer, wine & soft drinks  
**Entertainment:** Roc-A-Tac & Giuseppe Verdi Brass Band  
**Contact:** Josephine/Ray 9627 4182 or 0439 974 182

## 'THE TRITONS' FOUNTAIN VALLETTA - MALTA



“The Tritons’ fountain in front of entrance can be considered the final touch in a series of Colonial period projects aimed at improving accessibility to and mobility in and around Valletta. These projects, which included the construction of a lift at the Upper Barrakka and the operation of a railway that linked the town with the centre of the island, continued to be maintained and upgraded all throughout the twentieth century. In fact, these are the years that saw the gradual modernization of the islands especially in terms of transportation and communications technologies, an evolution which was an imperative especially in view of the role that Malta played as a military base.

The military justification for these improvements was accompanied with advancements in transport and communication systems that were put in place for the enjoyment of the civilian population. The introduction of

the tramway and, eventually, the bus system, was accompanied by the increased use of the private car and the construction of roads became one of the topmost priorities of several successive governments. The creation of the plaza in front of City Gate, which entailed the burial and partial annihilation of the outer works of the landward fortification system, belongs to this period which also saw the great ‘sventramenti’ of the old village cores which irrevocably destroyed the authentic context of several of our parish churches. The present project for the re-organization of the transport system reverses the Modernist obsession with progress at the expense of preservation.

It aims at providing an efficient and comfortable transport system that is sustainable, as invisible as possible, and one that minimizes the deleterious effects of pollution. To this end, the plaza in front of City Gate is being liberated from the scores of buses which hitherto constituted the first impression of Valletta for anyone visiting the town. Needless to say, the superimposition of the Terminus in the early twentieth century took no notice of the conservation needs of the town, and the addition of the Tritons’ fountain can be considered, because of its scale and positioning, as the fulcrum of the old Terminus with no connection to the authentic and historic image of the entrance to Valletta.

Today, the evolution of conservation philosophy and legislation on Malta as well as Valletta’s status of World Heritage Site, provide an imperative for the conservation element in the design of the new entrance. One needs to take into account however that the Malta Environment and Planning Authority (MEPA) failed to schedule the fountain as a historical monument worth preserving. It had started the process but for some reason the process was stalled.

The repositioning of the Fountain, while paying tribute to the work of Vincent Apap, one of Malta’s foremost sculptors of the Modern Period, will, together with the removal of the buses, free up the vista of the town walls and return the area to its pre-1950s situation. This falls within the general philosophy of the project for the entrance of Valletta which includes the restoration of the sixteenth century bridge spanning the ditch and the reintroduction of the original skyline of the fortification walls.

### Maltese-Australian Women’s Association

Nhar l-Erbgha 12 ta’ Awissu 2015, il-Maltese-Australian Women’s Association ser jiccelebraew il-festa ta’ Santa Maria.

Fl-10.30 tibda l-quddiesa fil-Kappella ta’ San Pawl De Piro House Stanley Street Sydney. Qabel, ikun hemm il-qrar u jinghad ir-Ruzarju. Wara l-quddiesa jkun hemm lunch. Cemplu biex tibbukjaw minhabba l-ikel. Kulhadd jista` jattendi.

**Cemplu lil Joyce Nagy fuq: 9718 2795 jew lil Colleen Cassar 9718 3868**

## Consultation document on the Maltese Language.



As a committee we believe our language greatly benefits from the support of a government entity made up of competent members, as is the case for the National Council for the Maltese Language. Therefore, the fact that the document issued on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2015 seems to be intended at casting doubt on the role of the Council calls for great concern, even more so when the document displays irresponsibility in its writing and also demonstrates a lack of competence. The first version of the published document was replete with errors ranging from orthographic to factual ones, and the arguments within the document are, even at present, in the second version, based on popular impressions rather than language expertise. While it is understandable that we would all like to safeguard our language, this does not mean that we all know how to cultivate it in the best possible manner.

On the other hand, the Committee believes that the Council engages experts who are among the best to make sound decisions on our language. The Committee respects the decisions of the Council, both because it believes that these are being made by competent persons in the field, and because these decisions have always been well-informed. We feel that the Council has always taken great care to distinguish between guidelines for orthography of a highly technical nature, for example in the legal field, and popular orthography. This alone is a testament to the technical expertise of the Council members and their sensitivity towards users of Maltese including those who do not necessarily work in technical fields.

After all, many are the native speakers of Maltese, and no one can question their knowledge of the language. But few are the qualified linguists, and no one can meddle with their linguistic expertise. Bħala Kumitat tal-Għaqda tal-Malti – Università nixtiequ nesprimu l-opinjoni tagħna dwar id-dokument ta' konsultazzjoni fuq l-ilsien Malti.

*Bħala Kumitat nemmu li lsienna jeħtieġ entità governattiva magħmula minn persuni kompetenti bħalma hu l-Kunsill Nazzjonali tal-Ilisien Malti. Għalhekk, jinkwetana l-fatt li d-dokument inniedi nhar l-4 ta' Lulju 2015 jinħass li hu intiż ukoll biex jixhet dubji dwar l-irwol tal-Kunsill, aktar u aktar meta dan id-dokument huwa miktub b'irresponsabbiltà u b'nuqqas ta' kompetenza. L-ewwel verżjoni tad-dokument li xxandret kienet miżgħuda żbalji li jvarjaw minn dawk ortografici, għal fattwali, u l-argumenti fid-dokument huma anki issa, fittieni verżjoni, ibbażati fuq impressjonijiet popolari aktar milli għarfien sħiħ tal-lingwa. Filwaqt li nifhmu li lkoll inħobbu lsienna, ma jfissirx li lkoll nafu l-aħjar ġid għalih.*

*Min-naħa l-oħra l-Kumitat jemmen li l-Kunsill għandu fost l-aħjar esperti sabiex jieħdu deċiżjonijiet sana dwar ilsienna. Il-Kumitat jirrispetta d-deċiżjonijiet tal-Kunsill, kemm għax jemmen li hemm nies kompetenti, kif ukoll għax id-deċiżjonijiet li ttieħdu dejjem kienu infurmati sew. Jidhrilna li l-Kunsill dejjem qagħad attent sabiex jiddistingwi bejn linji gwida għal ortografija ta' natura teknika ħafna, ngħidu aħna fil-qasam legali, u l-ortografija popolari. Dan waħdu huwa xhieda tal-ħiliet tekniċi tal-membri tal-Kunsill u s-sensittività tagħhom lejn l-utenti tal-Malti li ma jaħdmux biss f'oqsma tekniċi. Wara kollox, ħafna Maltin huma kelliema nattiv tal-Malti, u ħadd ma jaf il-lingwa daqshom. Imma ftit Maltin huma lingwisti kkwalfikati, u ħadd ma jaf il-lingwistika daqshom.*

IL-KUMITAT - GĦAQDA TAL-MALTI – UNIVERSITÀ

## Your chance to own part of the MALTA/ANZAC history

### A BOOK TO COMMEMORATE THE ANZAC



### **CENTENARY WW1 1915 – 2015 MALTA AND THE ANZACS – THE NURSE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN**

This commemorative book is packed with detailed information about the role that the Mediterranean island of Malta played during World War 1 to assist the ANZACS.

It includes photos, documents, list of ANZAC soldiers and nurses buried in Malta as well as photos of cemeteries, hospitals, military ships and other memorabilia. Malta has its own ANZAC monument to honour the 300 ANZACS (Australian and New Zealand soldiers) buried there.

This book is compiled by Frank Scicluna OAM, the Hon Consul for Malta in South Australia and it contains more than 150 pages in colour, full gloss and hardcover (see picture).

The book is for sale at \$35 each + \$12 postage (within Australia).

Please, send us your details so that we will be able to reserve a

copy now as we are only printed a limited number. For more information contact:

Frank Scicluna [honconsul@live.com.au](mailto:honconsul@live.com.au)

### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ANZAC MEMORIAL COMMITTEE- MALTA - Mr. Nicholas Bonello OAM



To commemorate the men of ANZAC who were taken to Malta during WW1 to be nursed from their injuries, and who failed to make it back home thus finding their permanent resting place on the island, a Memorial was erected and inaugurated on 25-5-2013 at The Argotti Botanical Gardens in Floriana.

Sponsored by the Maltese Australian Association-Malta, the idea was met with enthusiasm from many quarters both in Malta and in Australia. The Government, Associations, and individuals in Malta came forward with their donations.

In Australia, the Maltese organisations in the various states rose to the occasion with great enthusiasm. In Western Australia, Victoria and South

Australia, successful fund raising functions were held while in NSW donations came from a number of Associations' funds. In South Australia, a great dinner dance attended by the top state personalities produced a very good amount of money.

There were also a number of individual persons in Malta and in Australia who contributed. Happily, when all the expenses involved for the construction of the Memorial were paid and a professional audit was made, a sum of a few thousand Euro was left over. It was agreed by the ANZAC Memorial Committee-Malta that this would be distributed among a number of charities. In all eight charities in Malta benefitted from the surplus funds.

All who contributed would be happy to know that they not only helped the erection of the only memorial outside of Australia/New Zealand dedicated solely to ANZAC, but also to a number of worthy voluntary organisations in Malta.

I would like also to thank Mr. Frank Scicluna for inviting me to write a message on this commemorative book. The RSL Maltese Sub-branch of South Australia together with the Consulate of Malta are not only producing this book but are erecting a memorial in honour of the South Australian soldiers who are buried in Malta, as part of the ANZAC centenary.



**Maltese Association  
of Western Australia Inc.**

**Dear Members, please accept this attachment that contains all club event dates to the end of 2015. Also look out for the Maltese Bulletin that will be due out soon.**

Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> August – St George Preca Awards Ceremony  
 Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> August – Bingo  
 Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> August – Dance Night  
 Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> September – Kings Park Wreath Laying Ceremony  
 Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> September – Maltese Food Feast  
 Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> September – Dance Night  
 Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> September – Bingo

Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> October - Pink Ribbon Fundraiser  
 Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> October - Bingo  
 Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> October – Dance Night  
 Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> November – Car Boot Sale  
 Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November – Melbourne Cup Lunch  
 Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> November - Pizza & Quiz Night  
 Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> November – Bingo  
 Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> November – Dance Night  
 Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Theme & Dance Night  
 Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> December – Children's Christmas Party  
 Submitted by Albert Morris (Club Secretary)

## MARSA LOSES HALF OF ITS POPULATION IN 20 YEARS

Statistics issued by Local Councils Department confirm decline of inner harbour area and rise of St Paul's Bay as Malta's second largest town

Localities with largest % increase in population (1993-2014)		Localities with sharpest % decline in population	
	% increase		% decline
Marsaskala	399	Marsa	-45
Pembroke	359	Paola	-34
St Paul's Bay	315	Isla	-34
Swieqi	312	Bormla	-33
Munxar Gozo	160	Hamrun	-33
Zebbug Gozo	143	Floriana	-31
Mtarfa	117	Mdina	-30
Mellieha	109	Valletta	-30
Iklin	107	Birgu	-26
San Gwann	94	Balzan	-19

In the past twenty years, Marsaskala has seen its population increase by 400% while Marsa has lost nearly half of its population. This data emerges from statistics issued by the Department of Local Councils, which show changes in population between 1993 and 2014.

The statistics confirm that St Paul's Bay has overtaken Mosta as Malta's second most populous locality. St Paul's Bay has just 1,201 fewer residents than Birkirkara and has 805 more residents than Mosta. In 2010, Mosta still had 593 more residents than St Paul's Bay. The statistics show that St Paul's Bay overtook Mosta as Malta's second largest town in 2011.

While three new seaside localities in both the north (St Paul's Bay and Pembroke) and south of Malta (Marsaskala) have seen an increase in population of more than 300%, all the towns in the inner harbour area have seen a sharp decline in their population, losing between a third and nearly a half of their populations since 1993.

The sharpest decline was registered by the heavily polluted town of Marsa, which has seen its population decrease by 45% between 1993 and 2014.

Marsa's population has declined from 8,036 in 1993 to 5,731 in 2000. Marsa's population rose again to 6,018 in 2010 but dropped again to 4,401 in 2014. Bormla and Isla lost a third of their population in the same period while Birgu lost a quarter.

Marsaskala has seen its population increase dramatically, by 400%, between 1993 and 2014 in a period when the Maltese population increased by 75%. The population rose from 2,430 in 1993 to 7,404 by 2000, to 11,443 in 2010 and to 12,134 in 2014.



James Debono

**THE WATERCOLOUR ART MALTA** Miriam Borg miriamborg410@hotmail.com



H.E. Jane Lambert Australian High Commissioner for Malta and the participating artists at Washes Exhibition 2014

Hi I came across your site and think it's a wonderful way to keep the Maltese culture alive in Australia. I was wondering if you would be interested in showing some of the local art happening in Malta right now. I am the founder and coordinator of a group called the Watercolour Art Group Malta. I set up this group with the intention of bringing together watercolour artists who are connected in some way through their work or personally to Malta. This group consists of approximately 300 self-taught and/or fine arts professionals, of all ages. A group of 15 Watercolour Art Malta members have just finished showing a number of original Watercolour paintings in a collective exhibition called **Washes**.

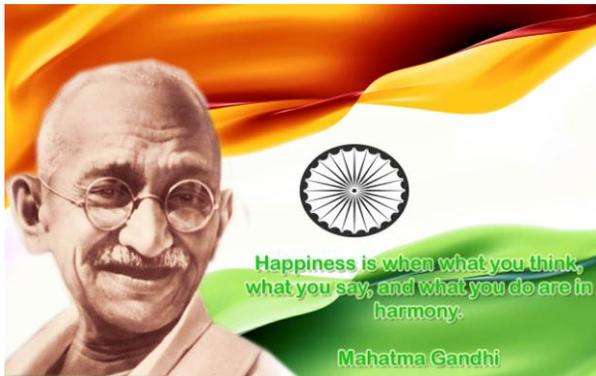
The Exhibition was held at: **The Zabbar Sanctuary Museum from 25th July till 10th August**. The Exhibition was a huge success with Her Excellency Ms Jane Lambert High Commissioner for Australia launching the exhibition and later on the 7th of August we had an Official visit by Her Excellency Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, President of Malta who was impressed by the high standard of the work being exhibited. This watercolour group is one of the first in this medium to be initiated here in Malta and we would like to see it grow and become known not only in Malta but in other countries too. We are also hoping that our exhibition will help increase public awareness of this interesting and diverse medium and provide greater exposure for the individual artists. We intend to have many more exhibitions and are already starting to work on the next one which will be in around November. Attached please find photographs of the occasion. I hope to hear back from you. Kind regards, Miriam Borg,



Ps. Most of these paintings are for sale and anyone who might be interested can kindly contact me for more information.



# MAHATMA GANDHI



When Mahatma Gandhi was studying law at the University College of London, a British professor, whose last name was Peters, disliked him intensely and always displayed prejudice and animosity towards him.. Also, because Gandhi never lowered his head when addressing him as he expected, there were always "arguments" and confrontations.

One day, Mr. Peters was having lunch at the dining room of the University, and Gandhi came along with his tray and sat next to the professor. The professor said, "Mr Gandhi, you do not understand. A pig and a bird do not sit together to eat." Gandhi looked at him and calmly replied, "You do not worry

professor. I'll fly away," and he went and sat at another table.

Mr. Peters, reddened with rage, decided to take revenge on the next test paper, but Gandhi responded brilliantly to all questions. Mr. Peters, unhappy and frustrated, asked him the following question. "Mr Gandhi, if you were walking down the street and found a package, and within was a bag of wisdom and another bag with a lot of money, which one would you take?" Without hesitating, Gandhi responded, "The one with the money, of course." Mr. Peters , smiling sarcastically said, "I, in your place, would have taken the wisdom, don't you think?" Gandhi shrugged indifferently and responded, "Each one takes what he doesn't have."

Mr. Peters, by this time was fit to be tied. So great was his anger that he wrote on Gandhi's exam sheet the word "idiot" and gave it to Gandhi. Gandhi took the exam sheet and sat down at his desk, trying very hard to remain calm while he contemplated his next move. A few minutes later, Gandhi got up, went to the professor and said to him in a dignified but sarcastically polite tone, "Mr. Peters, you signed the sheet, but you did not give me the grade."

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One of the biggest myths about Aboriginality is that if you have fair skin you can't be Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. You've got to be black to be 'a real' Aboriginal – or that Aboriginality is attributed to the degree of ancestry, such as 'she is 1/8th Aboriginal'.

These perceptions are highly offensive to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and must be understood as products of colonial thinking. Ideas of genetics and culture are often mistakenly collapsed together so that if someone's skin is lighter, they are thought to have lost that equivalent of Aboriginal culture.

**"As an Aborigine, I inhabit an Aboriginal body, and not a combination of features which may or may not cancel each other. Whatever language I speak, I speak an Aboriginal**

**language, because a lot of Aboriginal people I know speak like me. How I speak, act and how I look are outcomes of a colonial history and not a particular combination of traits from either side of the frontier."**

*Ian Anderson Director, Murrup Barak Melbourne Institute for Indigenous Development, University of Melbourne*



**Who is Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?**

**You might meet a person who says they're Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander but you're doubtful because they don't look the way you think Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should look.**

Perhaps their skin is not as dark as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people you see on television, perhaps they're dressed differently to how you imagine we should be, perhaps they live in the city and you thought 'real' Aboriginal people live in the desert.

In Australia today, there are three legal 'tests' that determine whether a person is Indigenous. They must:

- Be of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent.
- Identify as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person.

- Be recognised as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander by other Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people. Skin colour has nothing to do with defining whether a person is Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. Terms like 'half-caste', 'part Aboriginal' or 'mixed blood' are meaningless and can be deeply offensive. Such terms have been used to control and divide Indigenous Australians. They are words that belong to the past because they are words that are divisive, damaging and meaningless.

There are many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people today who have pale skin and live in cities. The reasons for this are varied. For a long time, governments deliberately tried to 'breed out' Aboriginality by dictating who we could and could not marry. Many also began relationships with non-Indigenous people by choice.

All Indigenous people take pride in their ancestry that goes back tens of thousands of years. Indigenous cultures have evolved over time, just like all cultures, such as through contact with other people, new technologies and new ideas. Whilst Indigenous Australians move between two cultures they are still incorporating traditional practices and beliefs in their everyday life.

**Pride in Australia's Indigenous history and culture has not always been the case.**

**At Federation in 1901, the rights of citizenship were not extended to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.**

The Australian Constitution, section 51 clause 26 reads: "The Parliament shall, subject to this Constitution, have power to make laws for the peace, order, and good government of the Commonwealth with respect to: The people of any race, other than the aboriginal race in any State, for whom it is deemed necessary to make special laws."

Clause 127 reads: "In reckoning the numbers of the people of the Commonwealth, or of a State or part of the Commonwealth, aboriginal natives shall not be counted."

Early Australian law classified Aboriginal people by the place in which they lived and gave local authorities the power to dictate every aspect of our lives. In the 1840s, the classification system became based on the extent of a person's Aboriginal ancestry, essentially a person's skin colour.

**Mutual recognition**

Through the 1960s and '70s 'blood' definitions such as those in the constitution were finally abandoned and today, a person is legally Aboriginal if they are a member of the Aboriginal race. Torres Strait Islanders are the Indigenous people of the Torres Strait Islands which are part of Queensland. Their identity and culture is distinct from Aboriginal peoples on the mainland.

“Membership of the Indigenous people depends on biological descent from the Indigenous people and on mutual recognition of a particular person’s membership by that person and by the elders or other persons enjoying traditional authority among those people.”

**Justice Gerard Brennan** *Mabo and Others v Queensland (No. 2)*, (1992) 175 CLR 1, [1992] HCA 23



**Acknowledging country**

Local people may have a preference for how they are described, for example at a function or event. If you’re not sure of a person’s particular language group and can’t find out, it’s usually okay to simply acknowledge them as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. The easiest way to find out is to ask the person themselves – they will see this as showing respect and they’ll appreciate it.

Connection with country is crucial to the wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. For millennia, when Indigenous people visited the country of others, there would be rituals of welcoming to country. Today, these rituals have a legacy in formal ‘Welcome to Country’ and ‘Acknowledgment of Country’ protocols.

Usually a ‘Welcome to Country’ will occur at the beginning of any major public meeting. It will always be done by an appropriate

Elder—someone widely recognised as having ancestral connection with the country where the meeting is taking place. She or he may welcome in their own language, or in English.

An ‘Acknowledgment of Country’ can be done by any Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Australians that are not traditional owners of the country you are meeting on, or by non-Indigenous Australians.

Acknowledgements can be done at the beginning of any meeting. Some organisations, for example, begin staff meetings with an Acknowledgement. There is no set wording for an Acknowledgement and you may wish to establish your own wording. An Acknowledgement will often:

- Acknowledge the traditional owners/custodians.
- Pay respect to their Elders past and present.

An Acknowledgment might be, for example “I would like to begin by acknowledging the traditional custodians of the land we’re meeting on today, and pay my respect to their Elders past and present. I also acknowledge my gratitude that we share this land today, my sorrow for some of the costs of that sharing, and my hope and belief that we can move to place of equity, justice and partnership together”.





## THE KAPPILLAN OF MALTA

KRISTINA CHETCUTI

I think our new young parish priest in Paola has a retro-meets-vintage kind of style.

I do not know him, but I see him out and about: at the football ground when Hibs were in the final games of the league; in the pjazza chatting with people; holding ladders while church decorations are being put up. And he does all this, kitted in his black cassock – whatever the temperature. He looks like he's just stepped out from the film set of Don Camillo.

I was raised on a television diet of Don Camillo, the television series based on the stories by Giovanni Guareschi that used to be aired every Friday evening on Rai Uno. They are tales of an amusing sort, in which the decent country priest Don Camillo confronts and defeats the communist mayor Peppone, who is himself a decent chap anyway, when push comes to shove.

I don't suppose anyone watches them any more, but they were very clever Catholic propaganda showing the goodness of ordinary simple Catholic villagers; the generous wisdom of Don Camillo's Christ; and last but not the least, the craftiness and untrustworthiness of the communists. To put things in context, they were aired in the early 1980s, bang in the middle of the Cold War with communist Russia, and conveniently Don Camillo was always the hero, and his church was cool.

I was thinking of last week, as I dined in the square of Żebbuġ – the annual fundraising nosh event carried out by the resilient minority of Ġużeppini in Żebbuġ (Note to fellow columnist I.M Beck: you should try this when you feel like giving your restaurants a break). I was sitting at a table next to the parish priest and I wanted to ask him whether Don Camillo had in some way inspired him to priesthood, but I did not, mostly because he looked so young that I was sure his childhood television was based on MTV, and definitely not Rai Uno.

However, he still had to bear with my quizzing on the role of kappillani today and he kindly gave me a very thorough account. I think parish priests are underrated. They are the ones who really know what's going on in Maltese society, not those media-savvy priests who are on TV and in newspapers all the time sounding their opinions, and making my eyes roll on a loop.

The kappillan is no longer woken up in the middle of the night, because people mostly die in hospital. He no longer stays in one village for life. He no longer has a bevy of priests to help him out.

And yet, he is still a reference point for many in villages. When someone is seriously ill, the kappillan is still the first one to know and asked to help – and he is available for the whole community, not just for those who attend church regularly.

The parish priests on the ground are managers, equivalent to mayors, except that they are privy to people's personal trials and tribulations too. They are like the CEOs of the village soul.

But I think that in a couple of generations all this will be lost. Firstly because the Catholic Church has its own problems, we know all about them, so no need for me to list them here. Secondly, because people's time and concentration span is more limited, and the Church is becoming the realm of those aged 60 plus.

This is a pity, if for nothing, for aesthetic reasons. Some Maltese churches are magical. Standing under the high vaulted roof of a 600-year-old nave can be uplifting, at a time when wherever we look, there are blocks of ugly concrete architecture. Beautiful churches are instead full of history and often full of family connections and memories ("This is where I was baptised/was a sheep in the nativity play" and so forth).

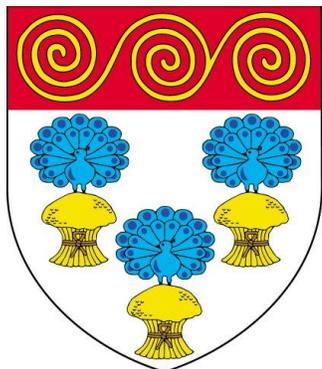
Moreover, churches can provide an intimate shelter from the metaphorical wind and rain outside. It is the place where to give thanks, pay respects, mark a significant moment or seek solace.

For decades, the parish church provided a rallying point. Now it is not so strong, even because it lacks the workforce as vocations are decreasing rapidly. And it is not replaced by an equally strong community network, which worries me that we'll soon be a step closer to a lonelier society.

My idea is that parish priests need to contribute more to national life – they ought to take up village issues and highlight them to the media, pushing the bunch of media-pop-priests out of the way.

Perhaps we can have Malta's own Priest Idol, like the UK's Channel 4. Parish priests were given a year to turn around the dwindling congregation of a rural church for a television reality show. They had a small panel of advisers and some financial support from the broadcaster to spend on anything to appeal to parishioners. The parish priests had to make do with cameras following them, and the programme brought the church closer to the people. So this is an ode to the kappillani of Malta – whose work is unappreciated – who have a Don Camillo attitude to life, and help us believe that everything will be alright in the end.

## CITY OF PAOLA – MALTA RAHAL-GDID



Grand Harbour, without considering the Hal Saffieni prehistoric underground complex, listed by UNESCO as a world heritage site. This hypogeum, which no visitor to Malta should miss, is an archaeologically unique site. Paolites can trace their roots back to the hardworking and religious buliders of this underground complex built more than 5000 years ago.



Likewise, Paola was among the first places on the island where the game of football was practised.

Infact, football has helped tomake the town's social history unique in various ways. As one of the best known football clubs in Malta, HIBERNIANS F.C. has both created popular enthusiasm and offered people an opportunity to participate in the life of the community. It has also enhanced the town's name, both locally and abroad, through its participation in international football events.



Like the famous hypogeum, football has evolved into a phenomenon of worldwide importance, an important aspect of contemporary culture and civilisation. The Paola football club's present and past directors, as well as all the players, are proud to have contributed to the international reputation of the town built by the Grand Master of the Order of St John, Antoine de Paule, during the first half of the seventeenth century.

## MALTA CRICKET TEAM FARWELL TO STALWART

Saturday's cricket match wasn't just another league game. Malta cricket paid tribute to its finest all rounder Michael Caruana. It was to be his last match for Marauders CC and last game at the Marsa Cricket Ground, as he will be emigrating to Australia in the next few days.



The morning started off with presentations to Michael from the Malta Cricket Association, the Marsa Cricket Club and the Marauders CC in appreciation for his dedication to cricket in Malta and among other things, overseeing the development of youth cricket in Malta. After a few short speeches from the Chairman and team captains the Summer League match between Melita CC and Marauders CC got underway.

Melita captain Frank Spiteri won the toss and asked the Marauders to bat first. Phil Gibbs (11 ret.) and Ed Manning (7) dominated a solid opening spell. Gibbs had one of his better innings and retired after 30 balls faced and Ed

Manning was eventually out caught to a brilliant running catch by A Naudi. But that's when the Melita bowlers (Joe Gartner, Mack Towers, Joy Ghoseroy and Andy Naudi) showed their worth and produced one of the best spells of bowling during this summer league. They bowled 17 overs between them, took 5 wickets and only 47 runs were conceded.

Batsmen P Bradley (27 ret.) and D Arnold (27 ret.) played attacking strokes towards the end of their innings to give the Marauders a defendable 135 runs. Melita CC used 7 bowlers – the best being A Naudi (3 wickets for 7runs).

Melita changed their opening partners once again for this run chase. John Grima and Jack Barritt quickly found that the Marauders had their own strong bowling attack! Ed Manning revenged the boundary Barritt scored by pinning him LBW for 6 runs and from the other end D Marks clean bowled Grima for 5. Melita soon found themselves 28/3 after young Luke Bradley caught Mack Towers (5) at covers. This brought skipper Frank Spiteri (28) to the crease and together with Michael John Grima (17) they put on a 35 run partnership. Both Spiteri and MJ Grima fell to Michael Caruana – these being his last two wickets for the Marauders CC. Batting at No7 & No8 respectively, Andy Naudi (43 n.o) and Joy Ghoseroy (25 n.o) passed the Marauders score with 2.4 overs left.

Although at a glance the result looks like a comfortable win for Melita CC, the Marauders on the day produced one of their best attacking and fielding sides this summer and with just another wicket it could have been a different result altogether. Best bowlers for Marauders were D. Marks 3/14 and M Caruana 2/45.

After the match presentations, a small reception was held together with Michael Caruana and his team mates. All those present shared in a farewell drink and toast. On behalf of all at Malta Cricket we wish Michael Caruana and his family the best of luck for their future in Australia.

Scorer: Eric Balakrishna Man of the Match: A Naudi – 3/14 and 43 runs off 30 balls

The Marsa Cricket Summer League will continue over the forthcoming forthcoming weekends and the fixtures will be announced once the heat wave has subsided!

## EASYJET CELEBRATES FLYING 1 MILLION PASSENGERS BETWEEN MALTA & GATWICK



**easyJet**, has celebrated carrying 1 million passengers between Malta and London Gatwick. **easyJet** launched services to Malta in 2008 and in addition to London Gatwick operates flights to Belfast, Manchester, Milan Malpensa, Naples, Newcastle and Rome Fiumicino.

Ali Gayward, UK commercial manager for easyJet, commented: "I am really pleased that today we are carrying our millionth passenger between Malta and London Gatwick."

"We have come a long way since the launch of our first flight to Malta back in March 2008. In our first twelve months at Malta International Airport we carried over 200,000 passengers – we now carry 320,000 passengers a year on London Gatwick, Manchester, Newcastle, Belfast, Rome Fiumicino, Milan Malpensa and Naples," she said.

Malta International Airport CEO Alan Borg said, "we're very happy to have worked with easyjet for the past 7 years, as they have enhanced our connectivity to two of our largest markets, the UK and Italy.

"The success of our family of airlines is testament to the unique travel product Malta has to offer. Together with Government and the Malta Tourism Authority, we will continue to work hard at building on this success story together."



## REBECCA DIMECH: ALMOST FAST AND FURIOUS

**The TV star, stunt car model and all-round good time girl tells about how she might have made it to Hollywood but for a tragic twist of fate.**

Most small town girls dream of becoming a star of the big screen or the catwalk, or of lighting up the charts with their music at some point or another. But never did Rebecca Dimech think that her local stardom gained from appearances in TV comedy shows, advertising campaigns, hostessing at VIP parties involving the likes of David Guetta and Armin van Buuren and leaning out of drifting car windows would one day actually lead to the possibility of that dream coming true – and in her favourite film franchise at that.

"I'm going to tell you something that only my close friends and family know," she tells me in a conspirational tone as we are discussing her ambitions over a coffee. People, particularly men, openly stop and stare as we chat – she has stunning, somewhat sensual presence as well as a well-known face.

"I was chatting with a friend who works in the movie sector late last year. He's worked on loads of movie projects abroad. I happened to mention how much I enjoyed the sixth Fast and the Furious film, and he shocked me by replying: 'I know their casting director – I worked with her last year'.

"My jaw dropped, and I couldn't believe what was happening when he offered to contact her. He e-mailed her there and then and – would you believe it – she replied in five minutes to tell him they were looking for a Hispanic-looking actress!" The die was cast and Rebecca was booked for an audition to be held in Dubai on 19 January. But tragedy struck within four days of that conversation, as she was looking into booking her flight. "I got a call early on a Sunday morning from the friend, asking if I'd seen the news. I hadn't so he asked if I was sitting down... He told me that Paul Walker, the star of the films, had died in a car crash.

"I was crushed, not only because this would mean I had probably lost my chance, but also because I had lost one of my heroes who had kept me company through the entire Fast and Furious saga since 2001." The disappointment comes through in her voice, and those captivating eyes start to well up, as they did that January morning. "I lost the chance of ever meeting him – soon after the casting department was told that Paul's loss changed everything, including the film's plot which had to be rewritten."

And that was that, at least for now, with regards to Rebecca's international ambition. But she's not the type to stay down for long. "I now have something big in the pipeline but I can't give away anything for now. Let me just say it's going to be fun to watch," she grins flirtatiously. And all is well again. When you meet her it's not hard to understand why this brunette girl has become so popular. But how did it all begin?

Her Facebook fan page states she was born Malta in 1984. Her father has Scottish ancestry while her mother has French and Spanish blood somewhere along the line. "I've been mistaken for a Pakistani, a Pole, an Arab, a Brazilian and a Spaniard – no one gets my nationality correct while I'm abroad and they try and guess," she grins.

"I was never a school fan – in fact I was a bit of a troublemaker in my school days. I always knew I wouldn't be going for a desk job so once I finished school I did what I really wanted – I did beauty courses. Now I'm a beauty therapist and am specialised in the make-up sector." Her style has been influenced by the music she listened to while growing up: Tupac and other hip-hop, Rihanna, Linkin Park, Limp Bizkit, and Pink.

"But I also like some classical piano and violin music. I'm a person with a lot of different hidden passion and personalities, like my movie idols: Angelina Jolie, Megan Fox, Monica Bellucci and Michele Rodrigues," she insists. We conclude with a rundown of the qualities that make Rebecca Dimech's ideal man. It's quite long I'm afraid. She is a picky one.

"I like dark and really nicely tanned guys, but Paul Walker would have taken the cake from all of the good-looking tanned boys hands down," she giggles. "My ideal guy has to be good looking. It's important for me to feel attracted to the person I am with all day and all the time so yes, I won't apologise for wanting him to be good. He must have a nice toned body, be tall, have a full head of hair and smell good all the time." The girl loves to dance so if her man has the moves, it will win bonus points.

"He must also know how to carry a conversation, make me laugh, know how to get along with my awesome, mental friends, he must love animals, mustn't swear, must believe in Jesus, support me in the things I do, do sweet things to keep the romance alive, and know how to protect me if I need it," she concluded, ticking the list off on her long, slender fingers.



## Simone De Battista

MOVIE ACTRESS BIRTHDAY November 14, 1977

BIRTHPLACE Malta

AGE 38 years old

Maltese actress known for her work in theater, musical theater, film, and television. BEFORE FAMES

She performed at the MTADA Theatre in her youth. TRIVIA She appeared in the 2006 TV program,

"Santa Monika." FAMILY LIFE She married fellow actor Ivan De Battista and had two sons.

ASSOCIATED WITH She and television director, Jon Cassar, were both born in Malta.



## Kevin Borg

POP SINGER

BIRTHDAY June 9, 1986 BIRTHPLACE Malta

Pop singer who was the first non-native winner of Sweden's singing competition Idol. BEFORE

FAME He briefly played for the Maltese professional team Floriana F.C. before moving to Sweden.

TRIVIA His first song, "With Every Bit of Me," reached #1 on the Sweden charts. FAMILY LIFE He

has a brother named Daniel. ASSOCIATED WITH He performed "No Air" with Jordin Sparks on the 2009 season of Swedish Idol.



SmartCity Malta is the first European outpost of the SmartCity global network of business townships. Creating a network of opportunities, SmartCity Malta will home knowledge-based companies that aim to serve the EU and North African markets. Set in an area of 360,000 m<sup>2</sup> along the picturesque coast between Ricasoli Point and Valletta's Grand Harbour, SmartCity Malta offers a harmonious blend of office, residential, hospitality and retail spaces, with one-third of the land set aside for green and open leisure areas.

Built Environments at SmartCity Malta adhere to international sustainability standards that protect its environment and provide its inhabitants with comfortable, healthy and productive spaces for work and leisure. SmartCity is the leading developer of knowledge-based business townships. By uniquely creating knowledge-based clusters with only the finest lifestyle amenities, SmartCity is the next generation of business townships.

Through the expertise cumulated from the development of 12 business townships in 5 industry clusters in the Middle East, SmartCity, today, is the foremost purveyor of knowledge clusters. Working closely with local governments, it translates its expertise and develops international business clusters that fuel economic and personal growth.

SmartCity Malta and SmartCity Kochi form the first SmartCity outposts in EU and India. Both, free zone developments are supported by cutting-edge infrastructure, unique lifestyle amenities and a responsive support system. They will model all subsequent SmartCity developments around the world, perpetually growing the global network of free zone business townships.



## MALTA LUZZU

### A Tradition surrounded by Superstition

Written by *Sabine Jung* for *AirMalta* - If you take a trip to any one of Malta's seaside villages you will immediately notice a large number of colourful boats floating in the water – and lots of eyes staring at you! These colourful boats are known as the Maltese *luzzu*, and they date back to the time of the ancient Phoenicians. The *luzzu* has now even become one of the symbols associated with the Maltese islands. Discover more about these traditional boats ahead of booking your [flights to Malta](#).

*Luzzus* are essentially traditional fishing boats. They are typically painted in traditional bright colours including blue, yellow, red and green. You can normally spot a rather large number of *luzzus* in Malta's seaside villages, including Marsaxlokk and Marsascala on the south side of the island, or St Paul's Bay on the north. These brightly coloured fishing boats often create a postcard-perfect scene on the beautiful and clear Mediterranean Sea surrounding the islands.

Due its stable, sturdy and reliable nature, the design of the *luzzu* dates back to the Phoenician times. In fact, the *luzzu* can be used both in good and in bad weather conditions. The boats normally have a double-ended hull and are built using wood. During the Phoenician times, the *luzzu* used to be smaller and used to be equipped with sails. However, this is not the case anymore as nowadays most *luzzus* are slightly larger, motorized and work with a diesel engine. Other than that, the design and style of the *luzzu* nowadays is very similar to the ones used in ancient times.



Just like in the ancient times, *luzzus* are nowadays most commonly used as fishing boats. If you head down to Marsaxlokk early enough on a Sunday morning you will be able to watch the local fishermen at work. As they head close to the shores with their *luzzus*, the fishermen transfer their freshly caught fish to the stalls, where the fish is sold at the [Marsaxlokk Fish Market](#) soon after being caught. However, in addition to being used as fishing boats, *luzzus* are sometimes used as passenger carriers for visitors to the Maltese islands.

There is quite a lot of superstition surrounding the *luzzu*, the most prominent of them all being the painted or engraved pair of eyes on the front of the boat. These eyes are believed to be a modern survival of an old Phoenician tradition, and are normally referred to as the Eye of Orisis, or the Eye of Horus – the Phoenicians' god of protection from evil. They are a symbol of protection and good health, and are believed to protect the fishermen from any harm while they are out at sea.

In addition to this, *luzzus* are normally inherited from a person's father and grandfather. However, although the exact colours of each *luzzu* vary from one another, the colours of each *luzzu* are normally kept exactly the same due to superstitious belief. Therefore, when the old paint is completely stripped off the boat every five years, in order for the fisherman to closely inspect his boat for anything that needs to be replaced, the boat is then re-painted in exactly the same colours that the person's father and grandfather had used.

So if you're heading to Malta this summer, be sure to visit one of the many fantastic seaside villages around the Maltese islands and admire one of Malta's oldest traditions that's still kept alive today.

- See more at: <http://www.airmalta.com/destinations/malta/blog/detail/maltese-luzzu#sthash.OHgzhDHS.dpuf>

**STAY CALM**

**See You Soon**

