

Maltese eNewsletter

Journal of the Maltese Diaspora



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Malta Artisan Markets



Upcoming markets happening at SUQ TAL-BELT, VALLETTA

- SAT 9th & SUN 10th March, 11AM – 5PM
- FRI 12th (5-10PM) & SAT 13th APRIL, 11AM – 5PM
- SAT 11th & SUN 12th MAY, 11AM – 5PM



Artist: Rosa Maria Dudzinski

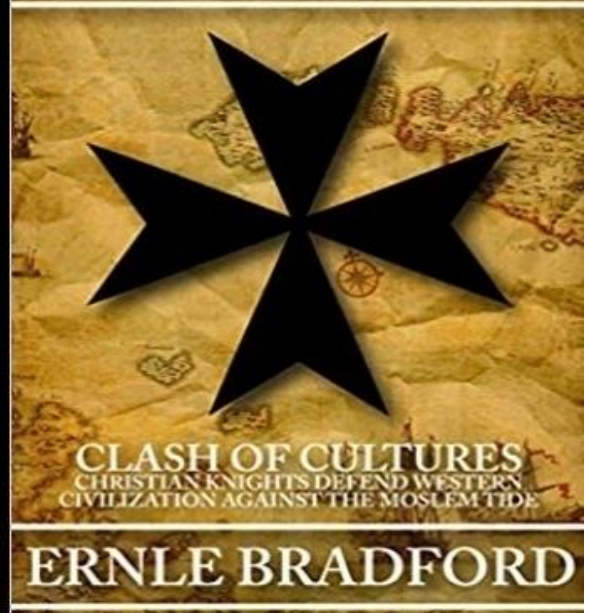
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



Girl with a Pearl Earring
an oil painting by
Dutch Golden Age
painter
Johannes Vermeer
dated c. 1665.

Known also
as the
"Mona Lisa of the North,"

THE GREAT SIEGE MALTA 1565



The indispensable account of the
Ottoman Empire's
Siege of Malta from the author
of Hannibal and Gibraltar.

Intervista ma' Father Gabriel

HAMSIN SENA SACERDOT 1969-2019

Father Gabriel Micallef OFM, huwa l-Kappillan tal-Komunita' Maltija ta' Adelaide gewwa Adelaide, Ahna ghamilna din l-intervista mieghu.



Tista' tghidilna xi haga fuq it-tfulija tieghek? Jiena twelidt fir-ralhal zghir u pittoresk ta' San Lawrenz f'Ghawdex, proprju fi tmiem it-Tieni Gwerra dinjija (1944). Missieri Guzeppi u omni Marija neec Apap, it-tnejn min San Lawrenz kienu koppja fqira imma sinjura fl-affarijiet tar-ruh. Rabbew il-familja mill-ftit ghelieqi u mis-sajd, peress li konna noqghodu qrib il-bajja tad-Dwejra, u min dik ix-xi haga li omni kienet taqla mil-bizzilla u t-tigieg u fniek li kienet trabbi fil-bitha tad-dar-razzett fejn konna nghixu.

Konna familja numeruza, imma hamsa biss bqajna hajjin. Il-bicca l-kbira minn huti mietu zghar jew ftit wara li twieldu. It-tlett huti l-kbar subien kif appena lahqu certu eta' l-koll sabu impjeg tajjed - wiehed ma l-Air Force u t-tnejn l-ohra fil-Pulizija. It-tnejn il-kbar mietu f'dawn l-ahhar tlett snin, u hija ta' qabli, akbar

minni tnax il-sena u ohti izghar minni tlett snin ghadhom hajjin. Jien u ohti bqajna d-dar u trabbejna flimkien fcdak iz-zmien ta' zvilupp u progress ta' wara l-gwerra. Jien ix-xoghol tar-raba ma tantx kien joghgobni, u kont nippreferi l-iskola. Ghalhekk kif temmejt l-iskola primarja ghaddejt ghal dik sekondarja fil-Lyceum tar-Rabat Ghawdex, fejn ta' kuljum kont immur bir-rota li kont xtrajt - minn dak li ta' tifel zghir kont naqla - nahdem il-purtieri tal-qasab (hsajjar) u ngħin wiehed *electrician*, peress li f'dawk iz-zminijiet (1956) wasal l-elettriku fir-ralhal taghna.

Kif gietek il-vokazzjoni ta' Sacerdot? Trabbejt taht id-dell tal-knisja tar-ralhal, u missieri kien midhla sew tal-qassisin tar-ralhal. Ta' erba snin kont diga' nservi ta' abbati u kelli mhabba kbira lejn il-funzjonijiet fil-Knisja. Bhalma għidit qabel, il-genituri tieghi kienu nies tar-ruh, u bizzejjed ngħid li missieri kellu zewg hutu sorijiet u omni kella zewg zijiet sacerdoti. Il-hajra li nidhol Frangiskan kienet minn meta kont zghir, ghax fir-ralhal kien jigi jigbor il-Patri tal-Qabar ta' Kristu u kien dejjem jieqaf għandna u jiehu dik il-kikkra kafe' kif kienet taf tagħmilha omni. L-istess kien jagħmel il-Fra li kien jigi jigbor mill-kunvent ta' Sant'Antin mill-Imgarr, Ghawdex.

Ta' sittax il-sena tlabt li nigi accettat mal-Patrijiet u f'cSettembru ta' l-1960 bdejt in-Novizzjat fil-Kunvent Frangiskan ta' Villambrosa, l-Hamrun. Studjajt il-Letteratura u l-Filosofija fil-Kunvent tar-Rabat, fejn kellna bhala Surmast/Direttur tagħna lil Patri Pietru Pawl Mejlaq li kien għadu kif gie mill-Awstralja. Għamilt il-Professjoni Solenni bhala Frangiskan fl-1 ta' Mejju 1965. Il-Kors tat-Teologija għamiltu fil-Kunvent tagħna tal-Belt u gejt ordnat sacerdot mill-Arcisqof Gonzi fit-22 ta' Marzu, 1969.

Kif qattejt is-snin tas-sa'erdozju tieghek? Kif appena ordnajt sacerdot tlabt u gejt mibghut fil-Kunvent tagħna t'Ghawdex, fejn ergajt hdimt id f'id ma P.Pietru Pawl li kien Mastru tan-Novizzi, u bhala Vigarju tal-Kunvent ghint bi shih biex sebbahna l-Knisja ta' Sant'Antnin b'induratura, pittura, zebgha, rhamijiet u bankijiet godda. Fil-bidu tas-sena 1971 bdejt ngħallem fl-iskejjel Sekondarji: xi haga li kienet ferm għal qalbi imma li kellha għomorha qasir ghax f'Novembru 1971, flimkien ma hafna sacerdoti u religjuzi ohra rajna l-impjeg tagħna mitmum. Hawn infajt nahdem maz-zaghzagħ fl-Oratorju Don Bosco fir-Rabat, Ghawdex u mal-mewt t'omni fis-27 ta' Novembru, 1973 bdejt nahseb biex mmur nahdem barra minn Malta. F'Marzu ta' l-1974 sib l-opportunita' li mmur il-Libya. Hawn ix-xogħol tieghi kien estensiv hafna. Kien għadni zghir u kont niflah għal dik il-kwalità ta' xogħol. Il-hidma tieghi prin' ipalment kienet bhala Kappillan tal-Maltin u fost dawk il-haddiema



First Holy Communion - 1949



With his parents as a novice

nsara barranin tal-lingwa ingliza. Kont nghix u nghin lil-Kommunita Frangiskana fl-uniku kunvent u knisja li kellna fi Tripoli, fejn kienu jattendu numru sabih ta' Maltin u dawk li jittkellmu bl-ingliz, taljani u Pollakki, speċjalment il-membri ta' l-ambaxxati. Kont Kappillan ta' Parrocchia fuq sistema amerikana f'Hi Andalus, f'tit il barra minn Tripoli maghmula l-aktar minn nies li jahdmu fl-ufficcji tal-kumpaniji taz-jejt. Kull fil-ghodu kmieni, qabel ma jibdew ix-xoghol kont immur inqaddes ghand Kommunita' jew tnejn ta' Sorijiet Maltin, Taljani, jew Francizi li kienu jahdmu fl-isptarijiet tal-Gvern.

Mifruxin mal-Libya kellna madwar 60 elf Filippini u 10 telef Sud Koreani l-bicca l-kbira kattolici u li jittkellmu xi haga bl-ingliz - li regolarment kont immur nzur xi grupp minnhom. Kellna madwar 700 maltin li kienu jahdmu mac kuntratturi ta' bini, barrieri, fl-airports u fil-lukandi. Imbagħad kelli kwazi-Parro`a ohra f'Marsa Brega (port taz-zejt tal-Kumpanija Exxon, elf kilometru l-bogħod) fejn kelli mal-mitt familja kattolici, l-parti l-kbira amerikani, inglizi, kanadizi u irlandizi u anke xi maltin. Hawn kont immur bl-ajruplan darba fil-gimgha, u meta dan ma kienx possibli, kont immur bil-karozza, ghaxar sieghat *drive* - f'sitt snin qatt ma fallejt iz-zjara tieghi. Kont ta' spiss ukoll immur Benghazi nagħti servizz lil grupp ta' Maltin li kien jahdmu mal-Corinthia Group u ma xi kumpaniji ohra. Darbtejn fis-sena kont inzur ukoll hafna mill-kampijiet taz-zejt imxerrdin fid-dezert tal-Libja, speċjalment fl-inhawwi ta' -Cirinajka (Cirene) - naturalment b'ajruplan zghir. Wara sitt snin hassejt ghajja kbira u tlabt f'tit tal-mistrieħ.

Imbagħad fejn mort tistrieħ? - Mistrieħ għalija ma kienx hemm. FcLulju 1979 mill-Libja ergajt spicċajt fil-kunvent t'Għawdex u din id-darba bhala Gwardjan. Hawn għaddejt sitt snin ta' hidma li mac taqtghax li halliet ukoll il-frott tagħha. Għamilt l-ghalmu tieghi kollhu biex nagħti servizz lin-nies fl-irhula ta' mad-dawra (Nadur, Qala u

Għajnsielem) u lil Kommunita' li kelli - gieli konna mat-tnax il-ruh fil-kunvent, bejn Patrijiet, Ajci (Brothers) u Novizzi. F'dawk is-snin bnejt ic-centru għaz-zagħzagħ f'parti mill-gnien u mahzen għall-armar tal-festa taħt iz-zuntier tal-Knisja. Fil-Knisja hadt hsieb għamilna sett linef godda u damask gdid li fassaltu jien stess u grupp nisa hituh. Hawn tlabt għal f'tit tal-mistrieħ. Mort sa l-Amerka u meta gejt lura ergajt bdejt immur nghin fil-Libya. Ma domtx gejt u sejjer, ghax spicċajt biex kelli nahrab - il-pulizija ssuspettaw li jien kont xi spija tas-CIA peress li fuq il-passaport kelli viza amerikana **multiple and indefinite**.

F'tit wara gejt imsejjah biex inkun Gwardjan u niehu hsieb id-Dar ta' l-Irtiri li għandna f'Bahar-i`-~agħaq. Kemm domt hemm hadt hsieb tajt **face-lift** lid-Dar ta' l-Irtiri billi kull kamra għamilniha **on-sweet** u bil-gallerija u kif spicċajt tajt bidu għal bini gdid ta' Knisja u Kunvent f'Palm Beach, f'tit l-isfel mid-dar ta' l-Irtiri. Tista' tahseb kif kont dejjem **on the go** u wara disac snin, il-Provincjal offrieli li niehu xi zmien ta' mistrieħ u mmur nagħmel kors ta' tigidid fl-Amerka, fl-Universita' Kattolika ta' Notre Dame, f'Indianapolis. Fil-Milied tal-1995 kont qieghed għal xi zmien ta' mistrieħ għand oħti fi Brisbane u hawn il-Provincjal, Fr. Raymond Camilleri, li kien qieghed hawn Adelaide, talabni li nigi f'Lockleys, peress li tnejn mill-Patrijiet li kienu hawn, kienu ser jirtiraw. Jiena accettajt u f'Lulju 1996 sibt ruhi hawn fostkom.

Originarjament gejt mibghut hawn għal f'tit taz-zmien, (tlett xhur) peress li l-ideja kienet li nagħalqu l-Missjoni tagħna hawn f'Adelaide, nbieghu kollox u nitilqu minnufuh. Imma l-bniedem jipproponi u Alla jiddisponi. Ghaddew kwazi tlieta u ghoxrin sena minn meta gejt hawn, u sadanittant id-dar u l-proprjeta' nbieghu, l-Parro`a telqet minn taħt idejna u scissa għadni hawn. Għall-ewwel konna noqghodu fil-units li kellna magħenb

il-Knisja ta' Kristu Re f'Lockleys, u meta dawn inbieghu morna noqghodu f'dar f'Mackirdy Street, Fulham. Fis-sena 2003 Fr Edward telaq u mar it-Tasmania, fejn ghadu hemm s'issa. Dik is-sena kienet wahda dizastruza ghalina l-Maltin ghax mietu zewg sacerdoti Maltin Fr John Baldacchino u Fr. Zerafa, Gezwita. Wara ghaxar snin minn Mackirdy Street mort noqghod f'Dartmoor Street, Lockleys ghax sid id-dar ried iwaqqaghha u jibni dar gdida lit-tifel. Wara tlett snin fcdik id-dar, sid id-dar bieghha u kelli nerga' nfittex fejn noqghod. Bis-sahha ta' xi hbieb sibt dar li kien ghadha qed tinbena f'Fulham, li d-Djocesi krietli u ghal dawn l-ahhar tlett snin ghadni noqghod fiha. Matul dawn l-ahhar snin bqajt nistinka li jibghatu li xi hadd minn Malta biex iserrhuni – ppruvajt mal-Patrijiet taghna, mad-Djocesijiet ta' Malta u Ghawdex u bqajt b'xiber nkompli sa fejn nista', imma qed inhoss l-ghejja u s-sahha qed tonqos gmielha. Sahha u Barka.

George Cross Falcons Community Centre

25-27 Lake Avenue Cringila NSW 2502

The Maltese teaching classes re-open at Wollongong

The Club is situated ten minutes outside Wollongong and forty minutes from Liverpool. The Club was built by the Maltese in 1951 to serve the community that arrived in the Illawarra to work at the steel works. It has also served the community as a welcoming place for all the distinguished dignitaries who travelled to Australia from Malta to meet the Maltese that migrated to all parts of Australia. Today the Club is proud of its great committee that understands the importance of solidarity, social cohesion and multiculturalism.



Celebrating Maltese history, culture and traditions, it has been hub for Maltese immigrants, their children and grandchildren. Maltese language schools have long been established in the major cities, and those with Maltese ancestry or ties to the Mediterranean archipelago have expressed their desire to learn more about the culture and language of the islands. GCFCC President, Louis Parnis, has been longing to re-open a Maltese school in the region to continue to serve the community.



**Annemarie
Theuma**

This year, Maltese language and culture classes are being held at the Centre in Cringila, led by Annemarie Theuma, a relatively recent immigrant from Malta. Annemarie came to Australia in 2008 and is a native Maltese speaker. She moved to the Illawarra region and regularly attends the Maltese community centre events. Annemarie left Malta for Australia at 18 years of age and is proficient writer of the Maltese language.

Maltese language and culture classes in the Illawarra were possible through the assistance and guidance of Jane Borg and the teachers at SkolaMaltija of Sydney. The George Cross Falcons Community Centre generously subsidises the classes for enrolled students. The Centre is moving towards becoming a Regional NSW serving the community within that area.



Louis Parnis

The school currently has over 25 students enrolled in its adult and children's classes. There are two classes catering to Adult learners Friday evenings and Saturday afternoons, and a Children's class on Saturday afternoon from 1.30pm. All classes are held at the George Cross Falcons Community Centre in Cringila. For more information and how to join, please visit the George Cross Falcons Community Centre Facebook page or contact contact Annemarie on 0405 126 444 or on georgecrossfalcons@gmail.com



Maltese Association
of Western Australia Inc



Maltese Association of Western Australia

Our History

Maltese migrants began to arrive in Western Australia in significant numbers in the early 1950's. The need for an organization to promote and protect the interests of the growing community became apparent.

The Association's inaugural founder was Joseph Calleja who migrated to Perth with his young family in 1947. In 1959 Joseph Calleja formally approached Father Galea a priest from The Missionary Society of St Paul' to assist in the formation of the club. Mrs Molly Asphar, who had been residing in Australia for over 25 years, suggested that the club should provide Maltese migrants with social outlets and official representation to Governments and other institutions. By 1958 the Maltese community in Bassendean and the surrounding districts continued to grow and they still did not have an organisation which could act and speak on their behalf. In those early days the

Association had a number of different titles. The first attempt was the "WA Maltese Australian Club"; and this was in existence for twelve months. The club hosted one social function, and to its credit, one reception for a VIP from Malta. The club was disbanded thereafter.

Again, Joseph Calleja approached the Missionary Society of St Paul's with the aim of forming a Maltese club. At this time Father Galea had been replaced by Father Cini. He agreed to assist and between them, they recruited Joseph Calleja's brother Felix and Fred Wright to form an interim Committee. The first meetings were held at Joe's home in Anzac Terrace Bassendean. Felix Calleja suggested "Maltese Settlers Association of Western Australia" as a title for the newly formed club which was unanimously adopted. Joseph Calleja was elected President, Fred Wright as Secretary and Father Cini as Treasurer. The first AGM of this new Association was held at the Australian Labor Party's hall in Broadway Bassendean on Sunday June 7th 1959 which later became their club premises.

With 53 members the Association was very active forming a Soccer team, a Youth brigade, a theatre group and held regular socials and receptions for visiting dignitaries. Women played a significant part in the formative stages of the club's life as in deed they do today. Although men occupied the Committee executive positions, women played an important role in the club's direction and growth. They did not intend to play second fiddle to the men and they made their views known early in the formative years.

The minutes of the AGM of 1961 showed this motion was moved and adopted "that women will be permitted to participate equally with men in any activity, meeting or functions". The motion was carried, although, partly contradicted a motion passed in July 1960 which stated. "If women members are successfully endorsed (as Committee members) there must be not less than two and no more than four".

Wreath laying ceremonies to commemorate the victories of the Great Sieges of 1565 and 1942 are a traditional part of the club's calendar, the first of these was held on September 9th 1961 and the event received media coverage in the papers and on television and continues annually today.

The club then went through a number of lean years and minutes of meetings between 1966 and 1974 are missing. One may rightly assume that club activities during this period reached such a low level that no one bothered to keep records or alternatively that any minutes produced were mislaid. Correspondence indicates that the Priests from the Missionary Society of St Paul's took over the running of the Maltese Community along with the wreath laying ceremony being organized by the Society.

In the early 70's a rekindling of club interest and activities was emerging but the main concern was securing some premises. A building fund was established however the funds were slow to come in so Peter & Carmen Farrugia generously loaned the club a substantial amount of money and the club was able to purchase the old Trades hall from the Labor party for \$70,000.00. Another name change was done on August 23rd 1972 from "Maltese Settlers Association"

to the W.A Maltese Association Club (inc)". A constitution was conceived by Chris Sultana, John Calleja and Peter Farrugia and by 1975 the club had taken over the role previously carried out by the Missionary Society of St Paul's.

The membership expanded rapidly between the mid 70's and 80's and so began the monthly publication of an improved Bulletin magazine, the Maltese radio commenced, a Maltese dance group was formed, a cultural exhibition was staged and numerous activities were held.

A grant of \$30,000.00 from the Federal Government was obtained and this was used to purchase club equipment. A name change again was done to the present name today of Maltese Association of Western Australia (Inc). But during this time the membership fell to a more constant level of approximately 100 members and produced a number of productive years for the Association. Sponsorships were obtained from Mitchells Retravisio (who is still a sponsor today), World Aviation and Singapore Airlines. This allowed the Association to boost its finances through raffles, social nights and the sale of Pastizzi & Ravvul. By the late 1990's the hall in Broadway, Bassendean had deteriorated to the point where serious consideration was given to demolishing it. Following lengthy negotiations with the Town of Bassendean, 2000 square metres of vacant land belonging to the Department of Land and Administration became available to the Association on a 44 year lease conditional on signing a legal agreement to demolish the old premises. During the year 2000 the old property was sold for \$65,000.00 and a Lotterywest grant of \$90,000.00 was obtained. Approximately 90 members were involved with many hours of volunteer labour and a low interest loan of \$60,000.00 from La Valette Investments Pty Ltd made it possible to begin construction of the new premises.

Under the direction and supervision of Henry Wettinger, (a registered builder and member of the club) the Association erected a substantial Community Centre. The new location of the club was at 1 May Holman Drive Bassendean, and this was officially opened on December 7th 2003 by our Patron Dr Anthony Sciberras and the Mayor of Bassendean Ms Tina Klein, and the vision held by so many people, notably Tony Zammit had come to fruition. The Association will be forever indebted to Tony Zammit (La Valette Investments) for his vision and also to Henry Wettinger who gave almost 2 years of his life to build the premises. Since then a liquor licence has been granted and with regular fund raising through chook raffles and social functions improvements to the club have been achieved. Lotterywest has provided three more grants helping to furnish the office area, computer equipment and the installation of a library and display cabinet. The Association has now erected a children's playground extended the paving area and is hopeful of obtaining another Lotterywest grant to extend the existing patio area to include a BBQ facility and a stage area for entertainment. Another vision is to build a school room for the teaching of the Maltese language.

Whilst individuals may have the vision of what needs to be done, it is the collective action facilitated by an organization that gives the dream its best chance of success



Some of our Life members at our recent
Volunteers Thank You BBQ
L to R Jim Vella - Maurice Pace
Henry Wettinger, Carmen Morris, Tony Zammit
Maria Aguis - John Enriquez - Edmond Khoury

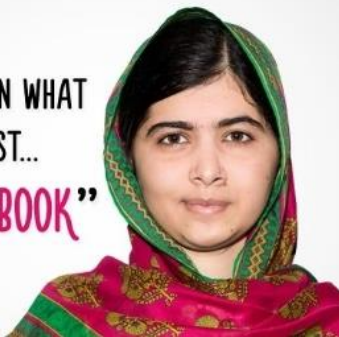


Past Club Presidents at our recent
Volunteers Thank You BBQ L to R
Maurice Pace Jim Vella Alf Wettinger
- Frank Calleja Emmanuel Calleja Carmen Morris
Stephen Cauchi (Current President) Jim Plowman

"EXTREMISTS HAVE SHOWN WHAT
FRIGHTENS THEM MOST..."

A GIRL WITH A BOOK"

Malala Yousafzai

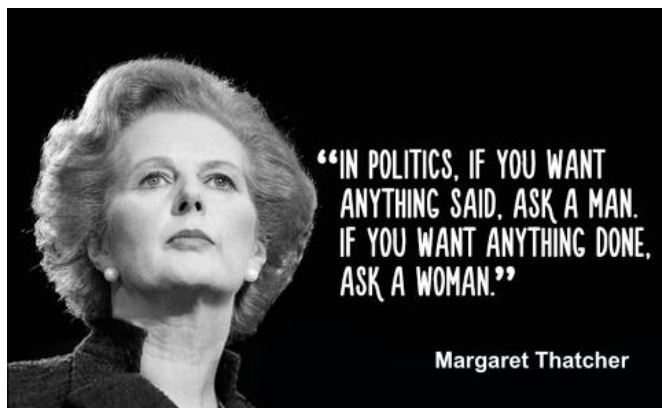


Women's Day quotes that will leave you inspired.

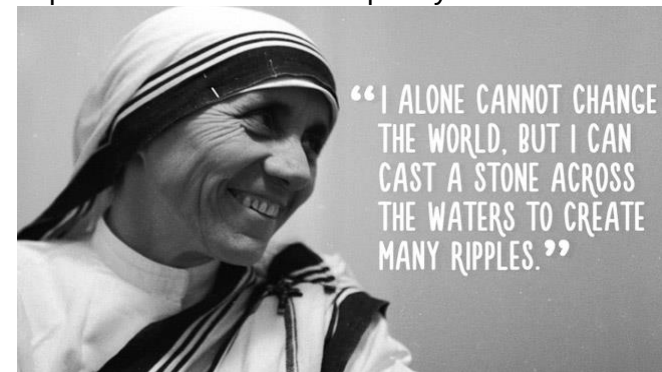
International Women's Day was celebrated across the world on March 8. It's a day to appreciate women in your lives and also celebrate their achievements. It is a day of hope, reflection and a celebration of gender parity in all walks of life. International Women's Day has been observed since the early 1900s and has since then grown from strength to strength every year. To honour the women in your lives - your mother, sister, wife, daughter, relative, friend or colleague, here are some quotes that you can to send them, inspire them further and tell them how much they mean to you.

International Women's Day 2019: 10 Inspiring Women's Day Quotes:

1. "I think women are foolish to pretend they are equal to men, they are far superior and always have been."
- William Golding, Author
2. "I don't like the word "sacrifice" or "compromise". Anyone who is too into this sacrificing concept has very low self esteem because they want to be martyrs at the drop of the hat. No! Stand up for yourself!" - Sushmita Sen, Indian actress, Former Miss Universe
3. "If you want something said, ask a man; if you want something done, ask a woman" - Former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher
4. "Don't let anyone tell you you're weak because you're a woman." - Mary Kom, Indian Olympic boxer
5. "Every man needs a woman when his life is a mess, because just like the game of chess - it's the queen protects the king." - Unknown
6. "No country can ever truly flourish if it stifles the potential of its women and deprives itself of the contributions of half of its citizens." - Michelle Obama,



Margaret Thatcher



Former First Lady of the United States

7. "Power's not given to you. You have to take it." -- Beyonce, Award-Winning Singer

8. "We realise the importance of our voice when we are silenced"

- Malala Yousafzai, Nobel peace prize winner



9. When you educate a woman, you set her free. - Oprah Winfrey, Media mogul

10. When women put their heads together, powerful things happen – Unknown

Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, KUOM (born 7 December 1958) the 9th President of THE Republic of Malta, since her appointment in April 2014. Previously, as a member of the Labour Party, she was a Member of Parliament in the House of Representatives of Malta from 1998 to 2014,^[1] and served as the Minister of the Family and Social Solidarity from March 2013 to March 2014.

What is The Council for Maltese Living Abroad?



Sent to this journal by Emanuel Camilleri and Marisa Privitera

The Council of Maltese Living Abroad was set up by the Government of Malta in 2011. Following the Convention of Maltese Living Abroad held in March 2010, the Government of Malta published a draft Bill proposing to set up a Council for Maltese Living Abroad and the establishment of a Maltese Cultural Institute. The Council is made up of a group of persons selected by the Prime Minister after taking into consideration the organisational set up of the Maltese communities overseas together with another group of persons living in Malta who are versed in matters relating to Maltese living abroad. The Council is chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and has a majority of its members from overseas.

The Objectives of the Council are:

- To promote the quality of life of the Maltese communities abroad;
- To strengthen political, cultural, economical and social ties between the Maltese communities abroad and Malta;
- To facilitate the preservation of a cultural and linguistic identity among the community;
- To promote Maltese culture and in particular the teaching of the Maltese language abroad;
- To assist in the integration of the communities in their adopted countries;
- To analyse problems which Maltese communities encounter including issues relating to working conditions, professional and educational training and recognition of qualifications obtained by Malta;
- To advise the Minister of Foreign Affairs on any legislation or issue that can affect the interests of Maltese abroad.

The Council have representatives from different countries including Australia, USA, Canada, UK, France and the rest of the EU. The current Council members for NSW are:

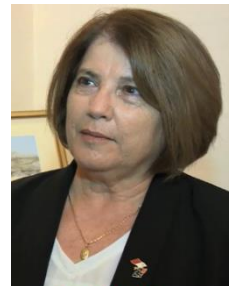
Emanuel Camilleri and Marisa Privitera

During the Annual two-day meeting, the Council members can bring to the attention of the Government of Malta their proposals from the Maltese community in NSW that they represent.

I can be contacted by email on sliema52@icloud.com or alternatively, Emanuel Camilleri on lelicam@live.co.uk and you can tell us of issues affecting you as an individual or for your local Maltese community groups or associations that we may not be aware of.

Marisa continued to treasure her Maltese identity

The Council of Maltese Living Abroad meets annually in to discuss proposals to strengthen the concerns and achievements of the Maltese spread throughout various communities around the world. Minister Carmelo Abela, the Council's president, declared that the Council is a strong voice representing Maltese migrants, and is serving as a link with the authorities in Malta, whilst also helping those Maltese living abroad to continue to treasure their Maltese identity.



Marisa Privitera

Marisa Privitera is one of the members on the Council of Maltese Living Abroad. Mrs Privitera resides in New South Wales, Australia. Marisa recounted that she had "left Malta at the age of seven in 1960, and the sea voyage took a whole month. I remember it all. I was 53 when I next re-visited Malta, and I remembered everything. The memories are still there."

Mrs Privitera said that although she had left Malta at a young age, she continued to treasure her Maltese identity, and even joined the Maltese Cultural Association of New South Wales and is a member of its choir. "I had to learn Maltese so that we could sing in Maltese. When I was learning these songs in Maltese, I also learnt to read the language, and that is how I learnt Maltese."

Mrs Privitera attended her first meeting of the Council of Maltese Living Abroad, which had been set up years ago within the Ministry for Foreign Affairs to give a voice to the Maltese spread throughout the four corners of the earth.

Pofessor Gatt explained that “over the past six years we have managed to obtain citizenship for the Maltese living abroad, as well as the EU vote for councillors and the consul on the move... they visit and organise biometric EU passports. This besides helping with language and instruction in Maltese, and with new emigrants, many of whom are professionals in the medical and legal sectors.”

During the meetings, Council members discuss proposals and recommendations which are put to various ministries and Government agencies and departments, according to the wishes of the Maltese Diaspora. The Council members represent Maltese living in Australia, Canada and the US, the UK, France, the European Union and the United Arab Emirates.

MANOEL ISLAND – it's history



In 1570, the island was acquired by the Cathedral Chapter of Mdina and it became the property of the Bishop of Malta. It was called *l'Isola del Vescovo* or *il-Gżira tal-Isqof* in Maltese (the Bishop's Island). In 1592, a quarantine hospital known as a Lazzaretto was built after an outbreak of the plague. The hospital was made of wooden huts, and it was pulled down a year later after the disease had subsided. In 1643, during the reign of Grandmaster Lascaris, the Order of Saint John exchanged the island with the church for some land in Rabat and built a permanent Lazzaretto in an attempt to control the periodic influx of plague and cholera on board visiting ships.

It was initially used as a quarantine centre where passengers from quarantined ships were taken. The hospital was subsequently improved during the reigns of Grandmasters Cotoner, Carafa and de Vilhena.



Between 1723 and 1733, a new star fort was built on the island by the Portuguese Grand Master António Manoel de Vilhena. The fort was called Fort Manoel in his honour, and the island was renamed at this point. Considered a typical example of 18th century military engineering, its original plans are attributed to René Jacob de Tigné, and are said to have been modified by his friend and colleague Charles François de Mondion, who is buried in a crypt beneath Fort Manoel. The Fort has a magnificent quadrangle, parade ground and arcade, dominated by a baroque chapel dedicated to St. Anthony of Padua.

In the British period, the Lazzaretto continued to be used and was enlarged during the governorship of Sir Henry Bouverie in 1837 and 1838. It was briefly used to house troops but was converted back into a hospital in 1871. During the course of the 19th century, incoming mail was fumigated and disinfected at the Profumo Office of the hospital to prevent the spread of diseases.

During World War II, when Malta was under siege, Manoel Island and its fort were used as a naval base by the Royal Navy's 10th Submarine Flotilla, at which time it was referred to as "HMS Talbot" or "HMS Phœnicia". The Chapel of St. Anthony was destroyed following a direct hit by Luftwaffe bombers in March 1942. The island and the fort remained derelict for many years and Fort Manoel and the Lazzaretto were both vandalized.

Manoel Island development approved

6,000 had signed a petition for the island to be turned into a park



The Planning Authority on Thursday approved Midi's planned mega-development on Manoel Island, amid concerns from NGOs and Għira residents.

The plans feature an extensive residential and commercial complex, including 600 apartments, a hotel at the historic Lazaretto, retail outlets, a yacht marina, streets and plazas.

The developers are promising the restoration of several heritage buildings and 80,000 square metres of new parks and family areas around Fort Manoel, which will itself comprise

galleries, museums, shops, restaurants after earlier plans for a hotel at the fort were dropped.

Thirteen board members voted in favour and one against. NGO representative Annick Bonello voted against, citing the environmental NGOs' concerns, while Labour, Nationalist Party and Għira local council representatives all voted in favour.

Board members stressed that the plans under consideration were an improvement on the original 1999 masterplan, which remained valid and which Midi still had the right to develop if the current plans were rejected. The board also confirmed that 8,000 square metres of development space removed from the plans would be transferred to Midi's development at Tigné, with no increase in building space allowed at Manoel island.

Għira mayor Conrad Borg Manché, once a staunch critic of the project, told Times of Malta after the hearing that while, like residents, he would have preferred to see a public park, his approach had been limited by the legal rights Midi had to the development.

The approved plans, he said, were an improvement and included several important changes secured through the guardianship agreement signed between Midi and the local council, including the use of the fort as a cultural centre instead of a hotel, the preservation of swimming zones, and the limitation of building heights.

"It's important for people to understand the full perspective," he said.

The hearing followed an earlier one in December where a decision was put off as the board sought more information on building heights and the differences to the earlier plans.

Midi's architects presented photomontages on Thursday which they said showed that the new plans represented a reduction in built-up footprint over the 1999 masterplan, increased open spaces, and improved the building profile to better respect the island's context.

The developers also committed to incorporating a slipway for small boat owners, after complaints by the local fishing community.

Architect Carmel Cacopardo, representing objectors, challenged the legal basis for the changes to the masterplan, arguing that a planning control application would have been required to change the local plan, by which the original plans have been kept alive.

Sliema local councillor Michael Briguglio slammed the limited social impact assessment for the project, which consisted of a survey of passers-by on the basis of which the authors concluded broad support for the project. Concerns were also raised over the loss of open views and the discovery of archaeological remains which objectors say could be impacted by the construction of new bridges. The remains still have to be considered by the Superintendence for Cultural Heritage, although the developers said they would abide by any conditions the watchdog imposed for the final plans. In a packed and occasionally heated hearing, residents also reiterated concerns over the loss of parts of the Għira promenade and open spaces. More than 6,000 people had signed a public petition in recent weeks calling on the government to turn Manoel Island into a wooded park with heritage buildings and save the iconic views from Għira and Ta' Xbiex.

Spearheaded by new residents' group Inħobbu l-Gżira (We love Gżira), the campaign called for a complete scrapping of a project that has been on the cards since the granting of a concession to Midi in 2000 but which residents say will lower the quality of life of thousands for the benefit of a few.

Meanwhile, a guardianship agreement signed between Midi and the Gżira council, ending months of hostility over public access and a widely-slated first draft master plan, seeks instead to hold the developers to its key pledges if the project is approved.

Under the agreement, a jointly-set up foundation will be able to take the developers to court if they alter building heights, build up any part of a promised public park surrounding Fort Manoel or go back on other aspects of the agreement.

"We have to seek some kind of guarantee and permanence to the status of Manoel Island, its green areas, its swimming areas and the use of the fort as a cultural centre," Manoel Island Foundation chairwoman Claire Bonello told the Times of Malta.

"As a foundation, we have worked to find a legal way to guarantee permanent public access to Manoel Island. If there are other people who have a different approach, I welcome that," Dr Bonello said, stressing the uniqueness of the agreement's enforcement mechanism.

Continued concerns from residents and environmental groups have centred on the height of the planned apartment blocks closest to the island entry-way, which objectors say are oversized and will obscure important vistas.

Residents have also lamented the loss of a part of the Gżira promenade to accommodate new bridges, one of which will be reserved for pedestrians and cyclists to access the largely vehicle-free island, and the narrowing of the current sea channel.



Artist's impressions of Manoel Island



The Presidential Palace

Valletta - Malta

In the heart of Malta's capital city of Valletta, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, lies the majestic Grand Master's Palace, chosen as the main presidency venue. During Malta's Presidency of the Council, the Palace will host a wide variety of meetings which will include both High-Level and ministerial meetings. This historical site, designed by Girolamo Cassar in 1571,

always held a central role in Maltese policy making, as evidenced by its long history.

Under the Knights of St. John, the Palace was used as the official residence for the consecutive Grand Masters of the Order. The British colonials used the palace to house the Governor, where it was enriched with a number of architectural works following damages received during World War II. Following Malta's Independence in 1964, the Palace became the seat of Malta's first House of Representatives, thus continuing its legacy as a central part of Maltese politics. Today, the House of Representatives has been relocated to a new Parliament House built at the entrance of the capital. Nevertheless, the Palace still hosts the office of the President of the Republic of Malta.

Inside this magnificent structure lie four State Rooms. The Council Chamber is lavishly decorated with a collection of Gobelines tapestries, woven in France and given as a gift to the Spanish Grand Master Ramón Perellos y Roccaful. The tapestries are nearly 300 years old and showcase exotic hunting scenes of the Caribbean, South America, India and Africa. These tapestries are kept in pristine condition to this day. The State Dining Room is graced by a painting of Queen Elizabeth II and Presidential portraits of the Republic of Malta. The Hall of the Supreme Council of the Knights, which is also called the Throne Room, is adorned with a series of twelve fine frescoes by Mattia Perez d'Aleccio depicting events from the Great Siege of Malta in 1565. The Ambassador's Hall or better known as the Red Room, exhibits portraits of Grandmasters and other governors, as well as a high fresco depicting historical events from the Order of St. John. Furthermore, the Grand Master welcomed important guests in this very State Room. In fact, foreign dignitaries are still greeted here by the Maltese President to this very day.

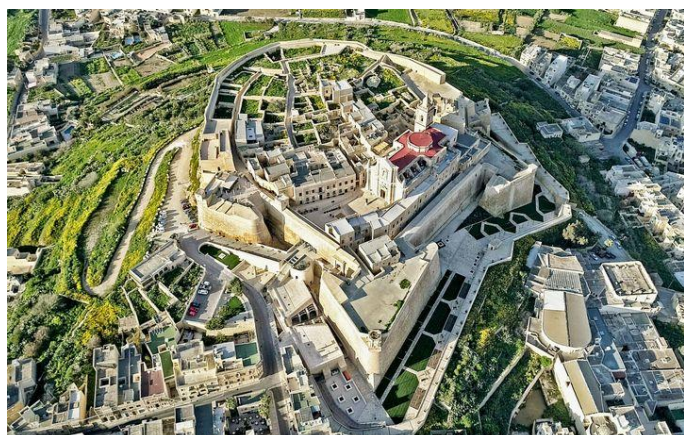
Being one of the first buildings in Valletta in 1571, the Palace holds one of the greatest armour and weapons arsenals in the world. The arsenal dates back to the Knights of St. John and it is still kept in its original state. The Palace Armoury was officially opened in 1860 and became Malta's first public museum. It features the personal armour worn by the Grand Master La Valette, the remarkable damascened armour of Grand Master Alof de Wignacourt and a unique display of weapons used during the Great Siege of 1565 by the Ottoman Empire. It also holds authentic pieces of Spanish, French, Italian and German origin. The Armory is currently located inside two halls that used to hold the Grand Master's stables.

MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

Journal of the Maltese Diaspora



Malta's position in the central Mediterranean has made it an important strategic base for many different powers, and meant that it has been subject to many invasions throughout the ages. A multitude of civilisations have occupied the island, notably the Phoenicians, Carthaginians, Romans, Turks, Arabs, Knights, French and British.



MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora



Read, Enjoy

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Over 30,000 candle to illuminate the Citadel for Lejl Imkebbes

BY [GOZO NEWS](#) · Don't miss out on an opportunity to visit the beautiful old city within the Citadel in Victoria, when it is lit up for an evening festival of lights – Lejl Imkebbes (Mediterranean Diwali)

That night, more than 30,000 candles of all forms will illuminate the narrow streets creating a wonderful magical atmosphere.

Visitors will also be able to take in the breathtaking 360-degree panorama of Gozo's hills, valleys, villages and churches, as well as the view across to Malta.

There are numerous activities planned during the evening, including historic reenactments, the opening of public venues of interest, live entertainment and children's activities.

Heritage Malta has said that during this event, its museums, and the Citadel Visitor Centre, will open for free between 6pm and 11pm, last admission at 10.30pm. While you are, why not try some different specialties, with food stalls offering both Maltese and other food, with the emphasis on Indian, there will be something to suit all tastes and ages.

Lejl Imkebbes is taking place on Saturday, the 16th of March, from 6pm onwards. Entrance is free.

This event is organised in collaboration with Ministry for Gozo, Visit Malta and VisitGozo.com

Photograph: Mario Xerri

The Greatest Painting in the World
Personal Perspectives I

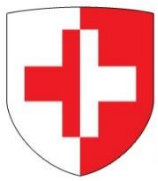
A series of talks by select speakers
Madeleine Gera, Philip Farrugia Randon, Ann Gingell Littlejohn, Mark Sagona, Bernadine Scicluna, James Vella Clark, Francesca Balzan and Christopher Grech.

Dates: Thursdays 7, 14, 21 and 28 March 2019

Time: 18.30hrs at the Malta Postal Museum, Valletta
Free Public Lecture | Event supported by Meridiana Wine Estate

Malta Postal Museum

The Greatest Painting in the World – a series of talks by various speakers
Thursdays 21 and 28 March 2019
At the MALTA POSTAL MUSEUM – VALLETTA
AT 6.30 pm



History, Culture, People In-Naxxar

The Locality of Naxxar has got a lot to offer when it comes to places of interest. One can find various places such as ancient burial grounds in Salina, WWII buildings such as the Pillbox and 'Widna' Radar, Palaces dating back to the Knights of St John, such as Palazzo Parisio and so much more.

One can find further information about these sites together with recommended walks throughout the village on www.discovernaxxar.com and www.naxxarwalks.com. **ORIGIN OF THE NAME** - According to tradition, the people of Naxxar were amongst the first to help the shipwrecked, including Saint Paul, when the ship he was on went aground on the rocks. For this reason many connect the name Naxxar with Nassar (Nasra) which means 'conversion to Christianity'. Others insist that the name comes from "Nsara" or "Nazaroei" which means 'those who believe in the teachings of Christ' who came from Nazareth and thus "Nozri". Others say that the word Naxxar means 'one who saws, separates or cuts' – it might be worth mentioning that in Naxxar there are a lot of stone masons. Magri, in his book says that the word "naxar" comes from "nazar" which in Jewish means "chosen for him" or else "one who keeps to himself". This is because in the vicinity the Arabs had formed a village that they called Hal Muselmiet, which means 'the village of the Muslims'. For this reason the Christians started another village – that of the Christians and so the name of Naxxar.



ORIGIN OF THE VILLAGE - It is not easy to determine when Naxxar started to become a village. What is sure is that thousands of years ago, there already existed some form of habitation in Naxxar. This is evidenced by the caves at Tal-Qattara and at Ta' San Brinkaw; megalith remains of the Bronze Age period at Tal-Qadi and at Qaliet Marku; the cart ruts which start at Salina up to it-Targa and appear later on near the Għadira tal-Wej and which are probably of the Bronze Age; punic tombs at the Naxxar Primary School and it is said also in St George Street and Leli Falzon Street; as well as the Catacombs at Salina and Maghtab.

CHAPELS - In the Naxxar area, there are various chapels, including the chapel of the Immaculate Conception which was built in the 18th Century; St Lucy's chapel; the chapel of the Shipwreck of St. Paul situated at San Pawl tat-Targa; Church of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist; the chapel of St

James the Apostle; Santa Maria tax-Xaghra; the Assumption of the Virgin in Maghtab which was built in the 18th Century; the Annunciation of the Virgin at Salina which was built in the 16th Century; the church of St. Michael the Archangel in Salina; that of St John the Evangelist and that of St Mary of the Angels in Bahar ic-Caghaq.

FORTIFICATIONS - The actual area where the village of Naxxar is built offers a natural shelter to its inhabitants. In fact, in early times the village was used to reconnoitre the movements of the enemy. Because of the fact that this height has a plain which goes right down to the sea, we find that three forms of defence were built through the ages – those along the sea such as towers, trenches, batteries, redoubts and beachposts – as a physical resistance to those attempting to land from the sea; inland defences like pillboxes – to hinder the advance of the enemy if they were successful in landing; and the fortifications on high ground. We find that this village is mentioned in the Militia list dated 1419-1420 which shows the names of 92 men from Naxxar. According to information we have, only five more localities – Birgu (Vittoriosa), Rabat, Mdina, Żebbuġ and Qormi – had more men mentioned.

Maltese e-Newsletter



FIND US ON FACEBOOK: [frankscicluna.3](https://www.facebook.com/frankscicluna.3)

Malta Migration Museum - Valletta

Maltese-Canadian Archives - Toronto, Canada

Gozo National Library - website - www.ozmalta.com

George Vella chosen for his qualities



Prime Minister Joseph Muscat said George Vella was chosen as Malta's next president not because he comes from the Labour Party camp, but because of his flawless track record and personal qualities, Joseph Muscat said. "I was very happy to hear that, when Vella's nomination was announced, there was a general

agreement in the country about his good qualities and integrity," he said, "He spent almost 40 years in politics, and absolutely no shadow was ever cast on him... He was one of the few politicians to have never sought power."

History of the Malta Police Force



The Malta Police Force in its present form dates from a proclamation during the governorship of Sir Thomas Maitland (1813-1814). When Malta became a crown colony of the United Kingdom and Ireland by the Treaty of Paris, Maitland was appointed Governor and commander-in-chief of Malta and its dependencies by the Prince Regent's Commission of 23 July 1813. On his appointment Maitland, embarked on many far reaching reforms, including the maintenance of Law and Order.

By Proclamation XXII of 1st July 1814, Maitland ordered and directed that all powers up to then exercised with respect to the administration of the police of the island of Malta and its dependencies were, after **12th July 1814** to be administered by the authorities under established procedures.

The police was to be divided into two distinct departments - the executive police and the judicial. The inspector general of police (Nowadays The Commissioner of Police) was to be the head of the executive police. The Magistrates for Malta and the Magistrates of Police for Gozo were to be the heads of the judicial police.

From 12th July 1814 onwards, the entire management and control of the executive police came under the immediate superintendence of the inspector general of police who received his orders from the governor.

After the grant of self-government in **1921**, the police department became the responsibility of the Maltese government. The first minister appointed, who was responsible for justice and the police, was Dr Alfredo Caruana Gatto. The Malta Police Force is one of the oldest police forces in Europe.

Role and responsibilities of the police

The Malta Police have a mixed responsibility in respect of its investigative role and national security.

In the investigative role the Malta police is legally bound to act upon the receipt of any information, report or complaint, and decide the respective natures of such information in order to treat accordingly.



Reports could be subject of a criminal investigation or of a civil nature. One may also report for record purposes.

The Police only investigate criminally related offences and usually do not interfere with civil cases. The

Police investigate, collect evidence and bring

offenders before a judicial authority (the court). In reality, the police are always in search of the truth within the parameters of its investigative powers combined with those afforded by the judicial authority.

It is the Commissioner of Police who decides on what charges the offender is to be brought to court.

In case the victim does not agree with the charges presented in court against the offender, he may challenge the Commissioner through a request made to a Magistrate.

Structure of the Malta Police Force

The ranks in the Force are as follows:

*Constable Sergeant 2nd Class Sergeant Major 1st Class Sergeant Major
Inspector Superintendent Assistant Commissioner Deputy Commissioner
Commissioner*

Malta is divided in two regions- Region A (South) and Region B (North). Each Region is headed by an Assistant Commissioner. Region A covers districts 1 to 5 while Region B covers districts 6 to 10. Each district is headed by a Superintendent and there are several divisions in each district headed by an Inspector. Generally community policing is the duty of the district police, although all other branches of the force assist in this mission.

There are also the specialised branches which form part of the Malta police force which are as follows

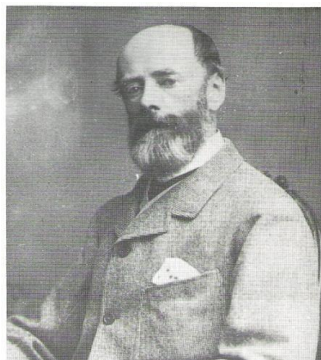
The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) The Drugs Squad The Vice Squad and Economic Crimes Unit The Protective Services The Special Branch Administration

All the above have some kind of relation with community policing since all of them assist in some kind or another, the district police. The members of the Force are entitled to a pension after 25 years of service. A number of police officers are also members of the International Police Association (IPA) and the Force itself has been a member of the Interpol since 1972.

Police powers & duties It is the duty of the executive police to preserve public order and peace, to prevent and to detect and investigate offences, to collect evidence and to bring the offenders, whether principals or accomplices, before the judicial authorities.

OUTLINES OF MALTA POSTAL HISTORY

The postal history of Malta can be traced to the Middle Ages. The origins of organised postal services in the Maltese islands, however, date back to the years of the rule of the Order of St John of Jerusalem between 1530 and 1798. Direct sea connections had been established between Malta and Sicily, Italy and other countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea. The despatches were then forwarded by land courier to their ultimate destination. Although the postal services were mainly used by the Knights of St John, these facilities were also used by the bishop, the Inquisitor and various Maltese merchants and other citizens.



Roger Duke, Postmaster 1880 to 1885

The French occupied Malta for 27 months between 1798 and 1800. During this period, Napoleon decreed that postal facilities should be reorganised and a number of the employees of the Knights of St John were subsequently taken on by the French.

One of the firsts acts of the British on taking over the Administration in the year 1800 was to improve postal communications within the Maltese Islands and with other Mediterranean countries. In 1806, a Packet Agency was established to handle external mail and in 1849 the local Postal Organisation was amalgamated with the Packet Agency.



**First Maltese stamp
1863**

British stamps were introduced in Malta in 1857 and their use for outgoing mail became compulsory in 1858. These stamps continued to be used until 1884. In 1860, the halfpenny inland post was introduced, and as there was at that time no British stamp of that denomination, it was decided to issue the first Malta stamp for a halfpenny postage. Malta became a member of the Universal Postal Union in 1875, a year after the creation of the Union, and since then the rates of postage have been those stipulated by the UPU. By virtue of Ordinance No. 11 of 31 December 1884, establishing a Post Office, total control of the Postal Administration in Malta was transferred from General Post Office in London to the local Colonial Government. A set of postage stamps, consisting of six values featuring four designs was issued on 1 January 1885 for both local and international use. Designs by Jean Ferdinand Joubert de la Ferte were adopted for this set of Queen Victoria

head stamps which were all produced by Messrs De La Rue & Co. A Postmaster for the Island of Malta and its dependencies was appointed on 1 January 1885. During the same year regular transport between the Islands of Malta and Gozo was established. Airmails from

Malta to several overseas countries were introduced in 1928. Malta became a member of the Conference of European Postal and Telecommunications Administration (CEPT) in 1970. Since its establishment the Malta Post Office has fulfilled a vital social role and has contributed substantially to the development of the National economy by promoting an efficient communication service. In spite of the continuous development in technology, the Postal service will continue to play an important part in the face of the ever increasing competitive environment.

Valletta's best kept secret

A stunning location in Valletta spread over four floors, right next to The Grand Master's Palace showcasing the clever use of materials to create outstanding finishes. This is not your typical Postal Museum but a run through of Maltese history from the 15th century till the present day. The Museum also boasts of two gallery spaces, a large audio-visual room and boutique shop. The gallery spaces presently display a collection of photographic prints by Richard Ellis reproduced from glass negative plates, and what is arguably the finest collection of artworks by Emvin Cremona, regarded by many as the best Maltese artist of the 20th century.

A Journal for the Whole Family



**06/03/2019 Pre ss releas e about tHe Campus Book Festival
organised by the National Book Council
and Għaqda tal-Malti - Università**

Dear all,



The National Book Council and Għaqda tal-Malti – Università are proud to present the sixth edition of the Campus Book Festival (FKK), which will be held on 27, 28 and 29 March, kicking off daily at 9 am with back-to-back activities planned until 4 pm. On Friday the activities will continue until late in the evening.



The purpose of the festival is to promote literature across the board while, at the same time, giving publishers and book distributors a space in which they can

sell and promote their publications with a mature audience, such as university students. A vast programme of activities will be put up during the festival, ranging from workshops and films related to literature, to readings and interviews with authors, painters and illustrators – as well as language discussions, guided tours around the University Library, live music and a number of collaborations with student organisations.

The special guest this year is British poet, literary critic and translator Rod Mengham, whose latest book *Grimspound and Inhabiting Art* is both a poetic meditation on a place (the Bronze Age site of Grimspound on

Dartmoor) and a series of short essays on different cultural habitats. He will be joining us on Campus for special events scheduled on each of the three days, with a seminar on translating poetry on 27 March, a book-club style discussion with students on his latest book on 28 March and an interview with Maltese poet Antoine Cassar on his body of work on 29 March. On Friday afternoon, Inizjamed will be contributing an Open Mic session featuring Mengham.

The festival will close on Friday night with live music by Maltese band The Busker.

The publishers and distributors participating in the festival are BDL, EDE BOOKS, FARAXA BOOKS, HORIZONS, and MIRANDA. These publishers and distributors will be selling their books at their stand



and will be organising their own book launch events.

The Festival is open to all, free of charge.

For more information or interviews, please contact Matthew Borg on matthew.borg@ktieb.org.mt or Sephora Francalanza on ghaqdataalmalti@gmail.com.

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Bishop of Gozo Mgr Mario Grech on pastoral visit to Peru



Bishop of Gozo Mgr. Mario Grech, completed a pastoral visit in Peru, where he met the missionary, Father Raymond Portelli, from Nadur.

The Gozo Diocese said that on Thursday, in the parish of St. Martin de Porres he celebrated Mass together with Mons. Miguel Olaortua Laspra, Bishop of Iquitos, where Father Raymond serves as the Priest, and is celebrating fifty years since its establishment.

During his visit Bishop Grech visited four homes of charity opened and run by Father Raymond, who, the Diocese said, is also a doctor; two homes are for the rehabilitation of people with drug addiction; one is for the homeless; and one for those suffering from Aids.

The Bishop said that one third of the costs needed to run these homes is raised through donations from Gozo.

The Bishop visited also members of the Missionary Society of St. Paul, who are in Arequipa and Lima. While in Lima he met with members of the Museum with who are carrying out several projects there.

**MORE
POWERFUL
TOGETHER**

MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER
A POWERFUL AND
EFFECTIVE WAY TO KEEP
THE MALTESE LIVING IN
MALTA, GOZO AND
OVERSEAS
LINKED TOGETHER



THE SHAPING OF A NATION

There is no doubt that the strength and true character of a nation is forged in challenging times and mostly in times of conflict. For Australia and our brothers and sisters in New Zealand our nation's strength and character is manifested in our ANZAC spirit.

For the Maltese, there were 3 momentous and progressive events that shaped the strength and character of this resilient and resourceful Mediterranean island nation.

The Great Siege of Malta of 1565 saw the remaining 700 Knights of St John supported by 5,000 Maltese militia and 10,000 troops of the Spanish Empire repel 40,000 Ottoman forces from invading

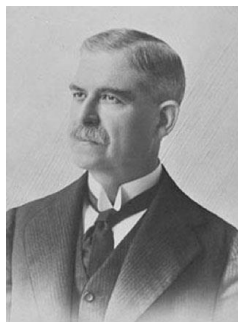
Europe. The key to their success were the Knights of St John who put their faith in God, facilities and their technology.^{SEP}

In 1799 Napoleon walked into Malta and ended the Governance of the Knights of St John – despite them having significant ties and a shared history with the French. Soon after in 1800, Lord Nelson expelled Napoleon and the British took control of the island. The revolving door of occupying nations continued but the Maltese remained resilient and united. They were getting used to being occupied but all the occupiers quickly learnt – that unlike the Maltese – they were there on borrowed time

During WWII when Malta was the most bombed place per square mile in WWII – and Cospicua was in fact the most bombed place in Malta. In fact, King George awarded the entire Maltese nation the George Cross for their endurance in the face of adversity in WWII..

THE MALTESE DIASPORA

The British recognised during the early stages of their occupation the importance of Malta's role as a strategic Naval base. They also quickly noticed that Malta's natural resources were limited – and this became most evident towards the end of the 1800's. As such, they adopted numerous approaches to relieve domestic population pressures through "exporting" and applying parts of Malta's skilled, hard-working and mostly multi-lingual workforce in various countries across the British Empire such as Tunisia, Egypt (where the Suez Canal and Railways were being constructed); and in far reaching Australia – the land of endless opportunity.



GERALD STRICKLAND AND THE AUSTRALIAN CONNECTION

Gerald Strickland was born in Valletta, Malta in 1861 to a Maltese captain. This gave the young Gerald Strickland the opportunity to venture the world – including his visit to Australia where he met other Maltese sailors in Queensland. This started his connection to Australia, where he ultimately became an important figure in Australia in his official capacities of Governor of Tasmania in 1904-1909; Governor of Western Australia during 1909-1913 and Governor of NSW during 1913-1916.

He was married to Lady Edeline Sackville-West who also contributed to the war effort during WWI through her affiliations with the Australian Red Cross. Following her sudden passing in 1918, Strickland soon was re-married to Margaret Hulton. Gerald Strickland then returned

to Malta and became Prime Minister of Malta in 1924 and stayed in power until 1932 becoming one of the longest reigning prime ministers in Maltese history.

Like many of the Maltese, Gerald Strickland had multiple allegiances –British, Maltese and Australian. Like his predecessors, he too identified the need to effectively and sustainably manage the Maltese population whilst also recognising the collective benefits of opening up opportunities for them to relocate to Australia where they could readily apply their skills in Agriculture, Construction and Management and prosper accordingly in Australia.

What Prime Minister Gerald Strickland ultimately set out to do was find a way to help his Maltese brothers and sisters improve their lives by migrating to Australia. In a bold and entrepreneurial move, Gerald Strickland acquired a weatherboard "Queenslander" home and had it dismantled and shipped to Malta. In Malta, almost all construction was of stone. His objective was to teach the Maltese how to construct with wood so that they could adapt and thrive in their new Australian homeland.

This house was built and deconstructed constantly at various training schools in Malta. It also served as an immigration office for the Maltese leaving for Australia and was most recently as a residence and a training

centre. Today this building is in disrepair and the Maltese Government are undertaking plans to relocate and restore it.



STRICKLAND HOUSE/AUSTRALIA HALL CONNECTION

There is a property in Vaucluse, Sydney Australia known as Strickland House, which Australis managed for Government Property NSW for many years. At the time we were oblivious to the history and its connection with my Maltese heritage. The property also served as a Women's Hospital thanks to the Strickland's involvement in the Red Cross in Australia.

On a street in Pembroke, Malta stands a building known as Australia Hall. This heritage building bears the Australian Coat of Arms and is emblazoned with the Australian Army's rising sun. This is probably the only emblem of its type in the world and the plaque on the front of the property reads:

This building was erected in November 1915 by the Australian Branch of the British Red Cross Society for the benefit of the soldiers of the Empire. It's our understanding that the Stricklands were involved in this construction as a welcoming gesture of goodwill for our ANZAC troops who were based in and passed through Malta.



THE NEED FOR RESTORATION – A CALL TO ACTION TO PRESERVE AN IMPORTANT PART OF MALTESE-AUSTRALIAN/NEW ZEALAND HISTORY

Like the “Queenslander” bungalow, Australia Hall is also in a poor state of repair having suffered extensive damage following a fire some 20 years ago. Many organisations have been involved in attempting to get this property on Triq A.N.Z.A.C. restored to its former glory. This heritage building will be restored by the private sector as part of a newly proposed development.

After over 15 successful years in the Australian FM industry, Australis is now looking to give back to the broader community, recognising the importance and significance of our cross-cultural heritage and the historical links between two proud nations – Australia and Malta. As such, we are passionate about applying and utilising our broad expertise towards preserving these heritage buildings.

Some time ago representatives from Australis Facilities Management and the Australian Maltese Chamber of Commerce met with the Australian High Commission, The Maltese Government, Forward Architects Malta, NIDUM Heritage Architects Malta and the property owners and developers to discuss options for the restoration for Australia Hall.

Australis and Forward Architects were the first entities to see the development plans and restoration options for the property. A strong link exists between Malta – a nation with a population of 460,000 – with over 100,000 additional Maltese citizens residing in Australia and New Zealand.

The Maltese have seamlessly integrated with the Aussies and Kiwis and have since become a strong part of the fabric of our collective societies. As such we seek to build on this intrinsic connection between Malta, Australia and New Zealand through the restoration of this historic ANZAC building.

Australia Hall in pitiful and shameful state



Derelict building in Pembroke, which used to entertain thousands of wounded soldiers, was officially inaugurated 100 years ago

Many are truly heartbroken and even disgusted at the state of the Australia Hall in Pembroke, which was officially opened on January 22, 1916, in the presence of 1,600 people. The Australian branch of the Red Cross had raised funds to finance a combined

recreation centre/theatre building that would serve to entertain wounded soldiers belonging to the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC).

Up to 2,000 men could be accommodated as stage productions, dances and other forms of recreation were regularly held there. Later, a library and reading room were introduced and, around 1921, a projection room was added to the structure so that the hall could also be used as a cinema.

The hall eventually became the property of the Maltese government and was later allocated to third parties after the closure of the British military facilities in St Andrew's Barracks in 1978.

Right up to the withdrawal of the British troops in 1979, the building was in constant use for entertainment of all kinds. It was closed but in December 1998 it was severely damaged by fire and reduced to a derelict roofless shell.

In 1996, the Malta Environment and Planning Authority scheduled Australia Hall as a Grade 2 building of historic, architectural and contextual value as it forms part of a larger scheduled military complex and its protection status was retained and republished following a revision as per Government Notice number 880/09 dated October 30, 2009.

The original blueprints have been found for the building and 6,000sqm grounds, but restoration is likely to require millions of euros.

It is now at the risk of disappearing both physically and from living memory due to different agendas at play. The large painting on one of the walls of the abandoned White Rocks complex not far from the Australia Hall is perhaps a good explanation of the situation... Who cares?

NB We sent letter to the Australian Government to assist in the preservation of this building. We received an answer from the Hon Melissa Price MP, Minister for the Environment and the Hon David Elliott MP, Minister for Veteran Affairs in January 2019:

The Australian Government values the shared history between Australia and Malta which is reflected in the history of AUSTRALIA HALL.

We understand that the Maltese Government has declared Australia Hall to be a heritage building of historic, architectural and contextual value. Responsibility for protection and maintenance of Australia Hall lies with the Maltese Government.

Unfortunately, the Australian Government does not have any funding programs or in-kind resources available to assist in the maintenance of the Australia Hall at this time. Thank you for bringing this concern to our attention

History of Maltese Emigration.....

HUMAN ASPECTS OF EMIGRATION



Bidding farewell

In spite of the defence offered by Maltese Government officials responsible for chartering ships for the transport of emigrants, it was obvious that the human aspect of migration had to be respected. Emigrants were not just humans to be shipped from one over-populated country to another one that had both space and need of them. The opposition in Malta's Legislative Assembly insisted that no converted ships should be chartered, but only passenger ships which had the required certificates from European authorities. It

was also suggested that those passengers who were willing to pay extra money were to be allowed better accommodation if they were prepared to pay for that little bit of extra comfort.

Great Britain was urged to provide more financial aid to the Maltese Government so that more comfortable ships could be chartered. As Malta's Prime Minister, Dr P. Boffa, told the Legislative Assembly, more than 8,000 Maltese had settled permanently in other countries during 1948 and 1949. They did so through the help of his Ministry of Emigration. Dr Boffa reminded his listeners that his ministry had received little help from the British Government in chartering ships.



Great Britain did help. On May 4, 1950, Lord Holden, Under-Secretary for Commonwealth Relations, said in the House of Lords that His Majesty's Government would soon be assisting Malta by providing financial help towards the Organisation of mass

emigration from the Island.

Significant steps had been taken since 1947 when the Maltese had at least a partial say in the running of their own country. Ships were now regularly available and the conditions of travel would eventually improve. However, emigration cannot be assessed through abstract statistics alone. It was a very human experience which entailed physical and mental anguish. At that time the authorities both in London and in Valletta chose largely to ignore this human side of the problem. They were eager to dispatch thousands to foreign lands in order to alleviate the precarious position of Malta in the days following the end of the Second World War.

The newspaper *II-Berqa* was not only very pro-British but it also carried consistently articles on the urgent need of mass emigration so long as that emigration was directed to the regions of the British Empire. But even such a loyalist newspaper could not ignore the

anguish caused by the separation of so many Maltese from their kith and kin. This is how the departure of migrants on the *Misir* in 1949 was described:

"On the quay there were many people waiting to see the last of their relatives and friends. Most women were in tears and the nearby road was so congested that the Police Cavalry had to be used to control the crowd. Many refused to board the ship. Many had gathered near the Customs House from the early hours of the morning. At one time the police nearly lost the control of the crowd."



At the old Luqa airport - watching emigrants from the spectators gallery

When in later years air transport became common, scenes at the departure lounge of the airport were reminiscent of what had happened earlier on the quays. On October 15, 1964, a group of one hundred and twenty-one emigrants arrived at the airport in Luqa. There were seventy-two men, thirty-five women and fourteen children under the age of twelve. Seeing them off was the minister responsible for emigration, Dr Alexander Cachia Zammit. As the emigrants

were being called board their airplane, one girl fainted and she had to be helped by her mother to walk to the airplane. A father, watching his son leaving, nearly jumped from the spectators gallery on to the tarmac, were it not for his other two sons and a daughter who barely managed to restrain him.

Similar scenes occasionally took place at the receiving end. If the departures were marked by heart-rending separation, there were joyous reunions on the quays and at the airports. Grown up men who had lived for long periods away from their wives and children would break down and weep as they embraced their loved ones.

Fortunately, the saga of Maltese emigration is free from any great disasters. One exception was that concerning the migrant ship *Skaubryn*. But even this mishap did not entail any loss of life.

Source: *The Safety Valve* (1997), author Fr Lawrence E. Attard, Publishers Enterprises Group (PEG) Ltd, ISBN 99909-0-081-7

THE TEACHING OF EMIGRATION HISTORY IN MALTESE SCHOOLS.

The Ministry of Education revised the National Curriculum to include teaching about Emigration History at all Levels of Education. The teaching of Emigration History is also included in some courses at the University of Malta.

